PARAGRAPH HISTORY
OF THE
ERICAN REVOLUTION

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OF THE

UNITED STATES

FROM

THE DISCOVERY OF THE CONTINENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

With Brief Notes on Contemporaneous Events.

Chronologically arranged.

By EDWARD ABBOTT.

Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1875.

ABBOTT'S PARAGRAPH HISTORIES.

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AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

By EDWARD ABBOTT.

"It was the grandest of causes, won by the skirmishes of sentinels and outposts." — LAFAYETTE.

BOSTON:
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Press of John Wilson and Son.

A PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little book extends to the American Revolution the method which, in "A Paragraph History of the United States," was applied to the history of the continent and nation entire. To those who are familiar with the struggle of the Colonies for independence, it will perhaps seem more remarkable for what it omits than useful for what it contains. But it is not intended for those who are familiar with that struggle; for such rather as have never read a history proper, or who have heard only by chance and uncertain mention what our country's fathers did, and in these busy centennial times have only moments by the way in which to trace the outline. I hear that the "Paragraph History of the United States" has gone into a school here and there as a text-book: possibly this, too, may serve as an incentive and directory to that broader, deeper, fuller study which should hold a first place in the attention of every American, old and young.

It hardly needs to be said that almost no use whatever has been made of original sources of

information, except so far as they have stood disclosed in the pages of such standard works as Mr. Bancroft's History. To that indeed I am greatly beholden; and it is both duty and pleasure here to acknowledge my obligations to Mr. Bancroft himself, and to his publishers, Little, Brown, & Company, for their joint and kind permission to make such use of that work as appears in the extracts from and abridgments of a few among its many striking passages. These and other foot-notes will, it is hoped, in some measure clothe the nakedness of the skeleton. Both taste and justness have given a large proportion of space to the events which constituted the approach to the war. Some incidents introduced may seem too trivial, and others to have been too much magnified, for the truest perspective; but all such have a place, and an important place, in informing the mind of the true spirit and form of the contest. The maps, such as they are, are not done to a uniform scale, as indeed they could not well be. Other features of the book will explain themselves; and with these words of explanation I would drop it into the pockets of the people on their way to Philadelphia.

E. A.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
March 17, 1876.

SYNOPSIS.

III. From the Battle of Lexington and Concord to the Declaration of Independence. April, 1775—July, 1776.

IV. The Declaration of Independence. June—July, 1776.

V. From the Declaration of Independence to Burgoyne's Surrender. July, 1776—October, 1777.

VIII. The Decisive Campaign, 1780—1781.

IX. The Close of the War. 1781—1783.

X. The Sequel.

LIST OF MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

the Atlantic seaboard, comprised the chief civilized occupants of North America. There were French settlements in Canada and along the Mississippi. A few adventurers were slowly pushing out into the wilderness of the interior. The oldest of the thirteen Colonies was Virginia, which, with Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, had been settled by the English. New York and New Jersey were originally settled by the Dutch, and Delaware by the Swedes; but all of the Colonies were now subject to Great Britain, though in a degree governing themselves. Widely separated from England and the rest of the world, they were bound together by common interests and sympathies. The period to which this paragraph relates had been immediately preceded in America by "King George's War," between the Colonies and the French, the chief field of which was the island of Cape Breton. The period itself was marked by the "French and Indian War;" the distinguishing features of which were the unsuccessful attempt of the English to wrest from the French the valley of the Ohio, the English conquest of Canada from the French, and the English war with the Indian Pontiac in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. In all these conflicts, the colonists bore a part.

1750–1775. The Grounds of the Revolution. In the Revolution, the thirteen English Colonies in America threw off the rule of Great Britain, and became an independent nation under the name of the United States of America. In various ways, British rule had become obnoxious to the Colonies. The King and Parliament regarded their authority as properly extending to the Colonies; the Colonies held that they were not bound by that authority. In particular, it came in time to be that England

claimed the right to regulate the manufactures and trade of the Colonies; to impose taxes upon them; and to make their governors and judges responsible to the Crown. These claims the Colonies strenuously disputed; demanding, on the other hand, freedom to make their own commercial regulations, protesting against taxation without corresponding representation, and wishing to hold their governors and judges in some measure responsible to themselves. Putting ourselves in England's place, it is not difficult to see how she might have felt that right was on her side, and that the Colonies were unreasonable.* Putting ourselves in the Colonies' place, it is no more difficult to see how they must have felt that England's course was oppressive.† England's policy toward the Colonies was by no means the unanimous voice of the government; for the Colonies had warm friends and zealous champions even in Parliament, and much sympathy among the people at large. The resistance of the Colonies was at first with no distinct purpose of separation: it ended in that extreme measure, only because England's policy made compromise absolutely impossible. The Colonies began with the endeavor to obtain a redress of grievances; in the end, nothing was left for them but to fight for their independence.

1760. *Oct. 25. Accession of George III. to the British throne. William Pitt at the head of the ministry.*

* "It is highly reasonable they should contribute something towards the charge of protecting themselves, and in aid of the great expense Great Britain puts herself to on their account." — *Grenville, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons.*

† "A king who annuls or disallows laws of so salutary a nature, from being the father of his people, degenerates into a tyrant, and forfeits all right to obedience." — *Argument of Patrick Henry before a Virginia court.*

II.

THE APPROACH TO THE WAR.

1761–1775.

1761. Writs of Assistance. One of the irritating measures which Parliament adopted to enforce upon the Colonies the legislation so obnoxious to them was to issue Writs of Assistance, which were in effect search-warrants, empowering officers of the Crown to enter any store or dwelling for the purpose of seizing articles of foreign merchandise suspected of having been imported without the payment of the prescribed duties. These writs were first made use of in Massachusetts. James Otis, advocate for the Admiralty, was summoned to defend their use against the formal protests of the mercantile community. Otis, however, resigned his office, and at the hearing upon the question, which followed before a board of five judges, appeared as the advocate of the people. "To my dying day," he vehemently exclaimed, "I will oppose, with all the power and faculties God has given me, all such instruments of slavery on the one hand, and villany on the other." "Then and there," said John Adams, in his comment upon the scene, "was the first opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born." The stand thus taken by Otis won for him immense popularity throughout the Colonies.

1762. *May. The Earl of Bute succeeds Pitt.*

1763. *April. Sir George Grenville succeeds the Earl of Bute.*

1765. The Stamp Act. In March, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, by which stamp duties were extended to the American Colonies. The Stamp Act required that for all instruments in writing used in business, such as notes, contracts, deeds, certificates, etc., and for all printed pamphlets, newspapers, etc., a certain *stamped* paper only should be used, the stamps being sold by the government at varying prices, and thus affording a considerable revenue. This measure did not lack opposition even in Parliament, and in the Colonies it awakened deep indignation. Popular feeling ran especially high in Boston,* New York, and Philadelphia. In the Virginia Assembly, Patrick Henry introduced a series of condemnatory resolutions, and advocated them with a fiery speech. In many places, the stamp officers were roughly treated, and some of them were compelled to resign; great quantities of stamps were seized and destroyed; and by the first of November, when the odious act was to take effect, the popular resistance to it had become fully organized. Business was for a time practically suspended, presently to be resumed with a total disregard of the provisions of the act.

1765. *Jan.* 10. *At the opening of Parliament, the King presents the American question as one of "obedience to the laws and respect for the legislative authority of the kingdom."*

1765. *Feb.* 2. *Grenville visited by Franklin and other agents of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and S. Carolina with a remonstrance against the taxation of the Colonies by Parliament.*

1765. Sons of Liberty. Colonel Barré, in a speech in the House of Commons in behalf of the colonists, had characterized them as "Sons of Liberty."† The phrase was adopted across the water as a watchword, and became

* "The people, the populace, as they are contemptuously called, have rights antecedent to all earthly government, — rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws, — rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe." — *John Adams on the Stamp Act.*

† This was the speech in which also occurred these memorable words:

the name of patriotic organizations which sprang up in every direction. The Sons of Liberty were the leaders in the more popular forms of resistance which the Stamp Act encountered; and their demonstrations, which sometimes verged on the riotous, had a powerful effect in defining and directing the popular feeling.

1765. *May.* **Action of the Virginia Legislature** exerted a powerful influence throughout the Colonies in shaping popular feeling into a settled purpose. Under the lead of Patrick Henry, resolutions were adopted insisting upon the rights of that Colony to make its own laws and impose its own taxes.

1765. *July. The Marquis of Rockingham succeeds Sir George Grenville.*

1765. *October.* **The First Colonial Congress.** In the midst of the excitement over the Stamp Act, and in the interval between its enactment and the time designated for it to take effect, it had occurred to the General Court of Massachusetts to call a congress of deputies from the several Colonies for deliberation. New York was fixed upon as the place, and the first Tuesday in October as the time. Twenty-eight delegates assembled, representing nine Colonies; namely, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, South Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. New Hampshire sent no representative, but agreed to abide by the result; and during the session a messenger arrived from Georgia, having come a thousand miles by land to obtain a copy of the proceedings. The Congress remained in session some eighteen days, occupied with discussions of the policy which the Colonies should pursue. Timothy Ruggles, of Massachusetts, pre-

"They planted by your care! No! your oppressions planted them in America. . . . They nourished up by your indulgence! They grew by your neglect of them. . . . They protected by your arms! They have nobly taken up arms in your defence." . . .

sided. The South Carolina deputies were leading spirits.* Three important papers were adopted. The question before the Congress was upon what ground to rest the demand for colonial liberty. Should a stand be made simply for rights held under royal charters, or, going back of charters, should those natural and inalienable rights be insisted on, which are the provision of eternal justice and truth? Upon this question there was a wide difference of views. Ruggles and Otis of Massachusetts and Johnson of Connecticut favored the former alternative; Livingston of New York and Gadsden of South Carolina, the latter. The latter was finally adopted, and the Congress drew up a Declaration of Rights, addresses to the Houses of Parliament, and a Petition to the King, setting forth the grievances of the Colonies, dwelling on the right of trial by jury, and protesting against the imposition of taxes except by the colonial legislatures. These papers were duly signed by a majority of the members of the Congress, acting in the name of the Colonies, who thus became, as these their representatives expressed it, "a bundle of sticks, which could neither be bent nor broken."

1766. *March.* **The Stamp Act Repealed.** The news of the reception of the Stamp Act in the Colonies, and of the popular indignation and disturbance which efforts at its enforcement had created, produced great excitement in England. A heated debate followed in Parliament, William Pitt leading the movement in favor of repealing the act.† The repeal was finally

1766. *Feb.* 13. *Franklin before the House of Commons with evidence upon the troubles in the Colonies.*

* "Massachusetts sounded the trumpet, but to South Carolina is it owing that it was attended to. Had it not been for South Carolina, no Congress would then have happened." — *Christopher Gadsden.*

† "America, being neither really nor virtually represented in Westminster, cannot be held legally, or constitutionally, or reasonably subject to obedience to any money-bill of this Kingdom." — *William Pitt.*

1766. *March. Ulloa arrives at New Orleans to take possession of the French colony in the name of Spain.*

1766. *July. Pitt consents to form a new Ministry, but greatly weakens his popularity by accepting a peerage.*

carried, but it was accompanied by a "declaratory act," the purport of which was a claim by Parliament of supreme power over the Colonies, in all cases whatsoever. Thus the Crown in reality insisted upon the principle, while for the time waiving the offensive application of it. With the Colonies, the application was a matter of comparatively little consequence: it was the principle against which they contended. The repeal, however, occasioned great joy in America, and was celebrated with enthusiastic demonstrations.

1767. Renewed Taxation. Under the lead of Charles Townshend, and taking advantage of the "declaratory act" carried at the time of the repeal of the Stamp Act, Parliament passed in June an act subjecting the Colonies to taxes upon oil, paints, and lead colors, glass, paper, and tea. A board of Commissioners of Customs was also established, to reside at Boston; and the functions of the New York Legislature were suspended until it should recede from the insubordinate attitude which it had taken. These measures awakened fresh indignation throughout the Colonies. Revealing the unmistakable purpose of England, they also furnished occasion for more pronounced resistance than ever on the part of the Colonies, and in effect tended to render permanent a breach that might have been closed. In Massachusetts, for instance, the Governor having refused to convene the Legislature, the people of Boston assembled in

1767. *April. Choiseul, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, sends the Baron de Kalb to America as a confidential agent to examine the condition and temper of the Colonies as respects war with England.*

1767. *June. The Duke of Grafton succeeds Pitt.*

town-meeting, and voted to forego importation of British manufactures. Steps were taken to make the abstinence general throughout the Colonies.

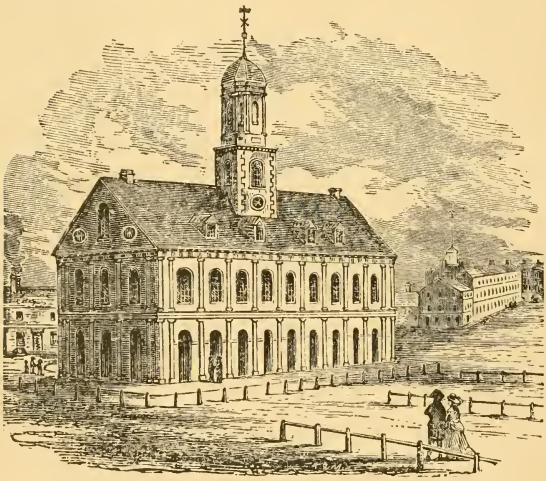
1768. *February.* **The Massachusetts Circular.** The Massachusetts Legislature, having adopted a remonstrance against this renewed policy of taxation, addressed a Circular Letter, drawn up by Samuel Adams,* to the sister Colonies, soliciting their co-operation in obtaining redress. A copy of this circular was frankly forwarded to England. It drew from the Ministry a letter instructing the colonial Governor of Massachusetts, Bernard, to require the Legislature to rescind the circular. This the Legislature refused to do, whereupon it was dissolved by the Governor.

1768. *June.* **The Romney Affair.** The "Romney" was a British man-of-war, which had been ordered to Boston at the instance of the Commissioners of Customs, for purposes of intimidation. She began her service by impressing New England seamen as they entered or left the harbor. On the 10th of June, the sloop "Liberty," belonging to John Hancock, was seized for some alleged violation of the customs laws, and towed under her guns. Great excitement attended this act on shore,

1768. *June* 8. *The British Ministry order a military and naval force to Boston.*

* Samuel Adams was a native of Boston, trained at Harvard College, a provincial statesman, of the most clear and logical mind, a strict Calvinist, a member of a Congregational church, and an example in severity of morals. His was a house of prayer, and no one more revered the Christian Sabbath. He was a tender husband and an affectionate parent; but the walls of his modest mansion never witnessed dissipation, or levity, or frivolous amusements. His incessant prayer was that "Boston might become a Christian Sparta." He was now about 42; poor, frugal, and temperate; yet whoever visited him saw around him every circumstance of propriety. He was famed as a political writer, had an affable and persuasive address, sought fame as little as fortune, and office less than either, and for himself and for others held that all sorrows and all losses were to be encountered, rather than that liberty should perish. *Abridged from Bancroft*, vol. v. pp. 194–197.

and there were some riotous demonstrations by the populace, in view of which four of the five Commissioners, from prudence or other motives, took refuge on board the "Romney."



Faneuil Hall in 1768.

1768. *September.* **A Boston Town Meeting.** It having become known that Governor Bernard of Massachusetts had sent to Nova Scotia for British troops, and he having previously prohibited the assembling of the Legislature, the inhabitants of Boston were summoned to a town-meeting in Faneuil Hall to deliberate upon the situation. The meeting affirmed colonial rights against royal usurpation in the distinctest terms, and resolved that they,

"the inhabitants of the town of Boston, will, at the utmost peril of their lives and fortunes, maintain and defend their rights, liberties, privileges, and immunities." "There are the arms," said James Otis, who was moderator, pointing to the boxes on the floor containing some four hundred muskets belonging to the town; "when an attempt is made against your liberties, they will be delivered." Every inhabitant was advised to arm himself; a day near at hand was recommended to be set apart for fasting and prayer; and, most important perhaps of all, a convention of the towns of the province was called to concert further measures for meeting the impending crisis.

1768. *September.* **A Convention of Massachusetts Towns.** The towns of the province responded almost unanimously to the request of Boston. Ninety-six were represented in the convention, which was also held in Faneuil Hall. It was a significant circumstance that the convention chose for its presiding officer and secretary the Speaker and Clerk of the legislative body which the Governor had disbanded. The Governor was petitioned to call the Legislature together. His reply was a summons to the convention to dissolve. This it did, but not till after a deliberate session of six days, in which former protests against the encroachments of the Crown were renewed more explicitly than ever.

1768. *October.* **Arrival of British Troops at Boston.** The squadron, conveying from Halifax the troops which Governor Bernard had sent for, arrived in the harbor close upon the adjournment of the convention of towns. On the first day of October, with a considerable show of force, the troops were landed at the wharves. According to law, no soldiers could be quartered in the town when there was room in the barracks at the fort in the harbor.

The requisition upon the Selectmen for quarters was therefore refused. One regiment encamped on the Common. The other in a spirit of compassion was temporarily lodged in Faneuil Hall. It was only with the greatest difficulty that permanent quarters were secured, and then only on such terms as clearly laid the cost of the maintenance of the troops upon England, and not upon the province. The presence of British soldiers in Boston only deepened the resentment of the people, and it became more and more evident that at this point, "one stubborn little town on the sterile coast of the Massachusetts Bay," the impending storm was first to break.

1769. The Widening of the Breach. This year passed away without witnessing events of a startling character. It was marked rather by the slow development of lines of action on the side of both England and the Colonies, and by the occurrence of many minor incidents, which yet were not without grave importance as indicating, if not promoting, the issue. Parliament was occupied with discussing measures to be pursued toward the unmanageable Colonies; the latter, with consultations and correspondence looking to a better mutual understanding and a consolidation of moral forces for persistent resistance to oppression. Parliament refused to relinquish the right to tax; in the Colonies, non-importation agreements were entered into. The Massachusetts Legislature having again assembled, and addressed complaints of the state of affairs to Governor Bernard, was in consequence removed from Boston to Cambridge, but persisted in refusing to vote supplies to the British troops. Bernard was presently recalled to England. The New York Assembly proposed the formation of a body of representa-

1770. *January. Lord North succeeds the Duke of Grafton as Prime Minister, continuing in that office until* 1782.

tives from the several provinces, which should exercise legislative functions for all. The Virginia Legislature, with utmost boldness and undisguised plainness of speech, resolved anew its own exclusive right to impose taxes; urged concert of action in protecting colonial rights; and was hotly dissolved in consequence by Governor Botetourt. Both Washington * and Jefferson were members of this Assembly. These several occurrences illustrate the spirit which everywhere prevailed. Feeling was not unanimous on either side. The Colonies still had warm and active friends in Parliament, who defended their cause with eloquence and courage; while the coercive policy of England had zealous, if not always open, sympathizers among the colonists. Yet, as the year drew to a close, the determination of England to carry its point, and that of the Colonies not to yield, grew stronger than ever.

1770. *March* 5. **The Boston Massacre.** Such, in general, was the posture of affairs, when an event occurred in Boston which involved bloodshed and provoked new popular indignation. A quarrel took place between some soldiers and some citizens, in contributing to which, if the latter were aggravating, the former were insolent. The town was thrown into a feverish state, and on the evening of the 5th of March a detachment of soldiers and a considerable mob got into close quarters on what is now State Street. The passions of all were much inflamed, and many very violent words were exchanged.

1770. *March* 5. *Lord North proposes in Parliament, and afterward carries, the repeal of all duties imposed by the act of* 1767, *except the tax on tea.*

* "Our lordly masters in Great Britain will be satisfied with nothing less than the deprivation of American freedom. Something should be done to maintain the liberty which we have derived from our ancestors. No man should hesitate a moment to use arms in defence of so valuable a blessing. Yet arms should be the last resource." — *George Washington.*

The soldiers certainly outraged the populace by their conduct, and the populace as certainly exasperated the soldiers by their language. An actual affray ensued, in which the soldiers fired on the crowd. Three of the latter were killed and eight wounded, two fatally wounded. One of the killed was Crispus Attucks, a mulatto, who was a leader of the mob. This affair roused the feelings of the people to the highest pitch. Upon the following day, in town-meeting assembled, first at Faneuil Hall and afterward at the Old South Church, they demanded of Governor Hutchinson, who had succeeded Governor Bernard, the removal of the troops. Their temper was such that the Governor reluctantly assented. The public funeral of the victims of the massacre was attended with great solemnity. Preston and several of the soldiers were duly tried; and it is a striking illustration of the generous spirit of the patriots, even in this hour of bitter provocation, that John Adams and Josiah Quincy, Jr., consented to defend them.* Two of the soldiers were convicted of manslaughter.

1770. *September.* **Intimidating Measures.** There now reached Governor Hutchinson an order which had been issued by the King in council two months before, appointing the harbor of Boston the rendezvous of all British ships-of-war stationed in American waters, and directing that the fortress which commanded it, Castle William, should be

* "I have little leisure, and less inclination, either to know or to take notice of those ignorant slanderers who have dared to utter their 'bitter reproaches' in your hearing against me, for having become an advocate for criminals charged with murder. . . . Let such be told, sir, that these criminals, charged with murder, are *not yet legally proved guilty*, and therefore, however criminal, are entitled, by the laws of God and man, to all legal counsel and aid; that my duty as a man obliged me to undertake; that my duty as a lawyer strengthened the obligation; that from abundant caution I at first declined being engaged; that after the best advice and most mature deliberations had determined my judgment, I waited on Captain Preston, and told him that I would afford him my assistance; but, prior to this, in presence of two of his friends, I made the most explicit

occupied by the regular troops and put into a state of defence. The people of Boston regarded this as a fresh outrage, and interpreted it as a new sign of a stubborn purpose to force them into submission.

1771. *May.* **An Outbreak in North Carolina.** Through the influence of the royal Governor, Tryon, a representative in the Legislature of this Colony, named Husbands, had been expelled therefrom on charges of conduct disloyal to the King, and thrown into prison. The "Regulators," an organization of the times, resented the act, and planned a movement to rescue him. In return, Governor Tryon procured an illegal indictment of some sixty of the Regulators for disorderly proceedings, and, putting himself at the head of a considerable body of militia, set forth on a devastating march in search of the offenders. The latter, having law as well as justice on their side, bravely, if unwillingly, met the collision thus forced upon them. An engagement ensued, Tryon's little army firing the first shot. The result was a victory for Tryon. His losses were 9 killed and 61 wounded; those of the Regulators, above 20 killed, with a number of wounded not named. Tryon followed up his victory with very severe measures. The plantations of the Regulators he ruthlessly laid waste. For the delivery of either of their leaders, dead or alive, he offered a tempting reward. And of the twelve prisoners he had taken in battle seven were hanged.

declaration to him of my real opinion on the contests (as I expressed it to him) of the times, and that my heart and hand were indissolubly attached to the cause of my country; and finally that I refused all engagement, until advised and urged to undertake it, by an Adams, a Hancock, a Molineux, a Cushing, a Henshaw, a Pemberton, a Warren, a Cooper, and a Phillips. This and much more might be told with great truth; and I dare affirm that you and this whole people will one day REJOICE that I became an advocate for the aforesaid 'criminals,' charged with the murder of our fellow-citizens." — *Letter from Josiah Quincy, Jr., in reply to the protest of his father. Memoir, pp.* 27, 28.

1772–3. The Events of 1772 hastened the culmination of difficulties. In South Carolina, a dead-lock had come about between the Governor and the Legislature. The scattered settlers of the vast territory between the Ohio and the Mississippi caught the spirit of their associated and organizing brethren at the East, and planted themselves firmly in favor of self-government. The Assembly of Virginia petitioned the King to permit the discontinuance of the slave-trade, with which he had strictly forbidden the Governor to allow any interference whatever; but could get no satisfactory reply. In Narragansett Bay, the British war-vessel "Gaspee," which had run aground while in pursuit of a packet bound for Providence, was boarded at night by a party of patriots and burned. Massachusetts was stirred anew by a royal decree that the Governor and judges of the province should be supported out of the provincial revenues, a measure which the Legislature pronounced a violation of the charter. And last, but not least, Boston, under the lead of Samuel Adams, procured a union of towns throughout the province for correspondence and action, to the end of a further and final protest against the authority of the Crown, and with reference to a broader union of all the Colonies for the same object. In March, 1773, this project was taken up with great enthusiasm by the Legislature of Virginia. Resolutions in favor of a system of intercolonial correspondence were adopted and sent to all the Colonies, with the request that each would appoint its own committee for stated communication with that of Virginia. "In this manner," says Bancroft, "Virginia laid the foundations of our union. Massachusetts organized a province; Virginia promoted a confederacy. Were the several committees but to come together, the world would see an American Congress." Rhode Island was the first

to follow the example of Virginia, and by May the proposed league was perfected throughout New England.

1773. Troubles over the Tea. In the latter part of this year, the contention between England and the Colonies was concentrated for the time being into a struggle over the importation of tea. It had been determined between the King and Parliament that this commodity should be exported to America free of tax in England, the tax to be collected in the Colonies in the form of what really amounted to only an enforced profit taken out of the consumer. The Colonies, refusing to recognize this token of the sovereignty of the Crown, were as determined, not only that they would buy no tea, but that none should be even landed; and this because they would not for a moment concede the principle which the king sought to establish. When therefore it became known that the East India Company had shipped several cargoes of the "pernicious weed," organized resistance began. Philadelphia, then the largest city in the Colonies, passed a series of appropriate resolutions, and requested the agents of the company to resign, which they did. Boston adopted the same resolves, and made a similar demand upon the consignees of the tea-ships expected at that port. This demand was refused. When these ships arrived, three in number, every effort was made to cause them to return to England, but in vain; and on the evening of the 16th of December a band of 40 or 50 men, disguised as Indians, boarded the ships and emptied the entire cargoes of tea, amounting to 340 chests, into the bay. This is known in history as "the Boston Tea-Party." Information of it was at once despatched to other points, and was received by the colonists everywhere with great satisfaction. New York resolved to follow suit. The ship bound for Philadelphia came within a few miles of the town, when

the captain learned of the temper of the people, and then prudently returned. At Annapolis, a ship and its cargo were both burned; the owner himself, it is said, applying the torch in deference to the popular demand. And in Charleston, S.C., a cargo was landed, but allowed to perish in the cellars where it was stored.

1774. Further Oppressive Legislation by Parliament. Massachusetts, as the leading insubordinate among the Colonies, and especially for its part in resisting the landing of the tea, was to suffer further political and commercial restrictions. In March, Parliament enacted the Boston Port Bill; by which the port was closed to all commerce, and the custom-house removed to Salem. Bills were also passed prohibiting town-meetings except for the choice of town officers, or by express leave of the Governor; providing for the quartering of the King's troops in Boston; and making Nova Scotia or Great Britain the place of trial for persons charged with capital offences; with others equally subversive of rights expressly conferred by the colonial charter. Finally, General Gage, Commander-in-chief of the British military forces in America, was appointed Governor of Massachusetts in place of Hutchinson, and was sent to Boston to see that the foregoing measures were executed. It was expected in England that these decided steps, indicative of a purpose not to be thwarted, would awe the

1774. *Jan.* 29. *Wedderburn makes a violent speech against Franklin at a public hearing before the Privy Council.*

1774. *Feb.* 7. *The King dismisses the petition of Massachusetts for the removal of Gov. Hutchinson and Lieut.-Gov. Oliver "as groundless, vexatious, and scandalous."*

1774. *April. Edmund Burke and other friends of the Colonies in Parliament vainly urge a repeal of the tax-laws.*

1774. *May* 10. *Louis XVI. ascends the throne of France.*

Colonies into submission. The result was just the opposite. The resoluteness of the latter was strengthened. And both parties began to prepare for the open conflict, which it now seemed could not be avoided.

1774. *May* 12, 13. **An Indignation Meeting.** News of these last measures of Parliament having reached Boston, the committees of correspondence representing Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, Brookline, Newton, Cambridge, Charlestown, Lynn, and Lexington, met in Faneuil Hall on the 12th of May, and in a circular letter to the other Colonies proposed a general discontinuance of trade with England. The following day, the inhabitants of Boston in town-meeting appealed to the Colonies for aid and comfort in the straits to which they were now to be subjected. The response to this appeal was general, prompt, and hearty. South Carolina was the first to substantiate its sympathy with actual contributions, shipping 200 barrels of rice in June and promising 800 more. North Carolina raised £2000. Delaware agreed to send relief annually. Maryland and Virginia showed equal generosity. While from all New England came liberal supplies of provisions for the blockaded brethren whom the King proposed to starve into submission. Even Canada joined in the general effort.

1774. The Boston Port Bill went into effect on the 1st of June. As a result, all water communication with the town was cut off, and trade and industry were in a great degree interrupted. The event was sympathetically observed in Philadelphia by the tolling of bells and the hanging of flags at half mast; and in Virginia by services of fasting and prayer.

1774. *July. Maurepas Prime Minister of France. Vergennes Minister of Foreign Affairs. The relations of France to England incline the Administration to favor the cause of the American Colonies.*

1774. *September*. **Seizure of Powder by General Gage.** General Gage caused the seizure of a quantity of powder which belonged to the province and was kept in the outskirts of Charlestown. He also proceeded to fortify Boston Neck, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the Selectmen. These harsh measures provoked a new storm of popular indignation, and were followed by a convention of Suffolk County at Dedham, which adopted resolutions of great moment, declaring the virtual independence of the Colony, recommending a provincial congress, and pledging the most determined resistance to the aggressive policy of Great Britain. A report of the action of the convention was forwarded to the Continental Congress, now on the point of assembling at Philadelphia, for its approval.

1774. *September*. **The Old Continental Congress.** The summer was occupied in the Colonies with preparations for the Congress which New York had proposed and Massachusetts had summoned. To this the correspondence between the towns of the several Colonies very naturally and easily led the way. The machinery of independence was really set up, and began its work immediately. The Congress assembled in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia on the 5th of September. The number of deputies in attendance was 55, every Colony but Georgia being represented. The men of that time whose memories we honor were all there: George Washington, Patrick Henry, Christopher Gadsden, Edward and John Rutledge, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Roger Sherman, John Jay, and President Witherspoon of Princeton College. Peyton Randolph of Virginia was chosen President. Patrick Henry made an opening speech, which produced a profound impression. The relative importance of the several Colonies not being definitely known, it was agreed that each should have one vote in all ballot-

ings. On motion of Samuel Adams, who was a Congregationalist, Rev. Jacob Duché, an Episcopalian, was invited to act as chaplain. A Declaration of Rights, and addresses to the King and to the Colonies, were adopted. It was voted "that this Congress approve the opposition of the inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay [see preceding paragraph] to the execution of the late acts of Parliament; and if the same shall be attempted to be carried into execution by force, in such case, all America ought to support them in their opposition." The harmony of deliberations was at one time disturbed by a proposition to agree under certain circumstances to export no merchandise to Great Britain and the West Indies. South Carolina objected to this, as cutting off her shipments of rice; and, rather than assent to it, two of her delegates withdrew from the Congress. The point was accordingly waived, and the seceders returned. The following agreement was unanimously adopted: —

> "We will neither import nor purchase any slave imported after the first day of December next; after which time we will wholly discontinue the slave-trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels, nor sell our commodities or manufactures, to those who are concerned in it."

A second Congress was appointed for May following, to which Canada and Nova Scotia, as well as all the American Colonies, were invited to send delegates. The Congress remained in session until about the middle of October; but it sat with closed doors, and of its debates no report was preserved.

1774. *October*. **A Provincial Congress in Massachusetts**. General Gage had begun his administration of affairs by fortifying Boston Neck, and seizing a quantity of military stores at Cambridge and Charlestown, which he conveyed to Castle William in the harbor. He then sum-

moned the Legislature to meet at Salem on the 5th of October; but, taking counsel of his fears, countermanded the order. The Legislature met, nevertheless; resolved itself into a provincial congress; and, having adjourned to Concord, chose John Hancock President, and Benjamin Lincoln Secretary. A communication was addressed to the Governor, protesting anew against the measures he had come to execute, affirming loyalty to the King, and expressing a desire for peace and quietness. General Gage's only reply was an admonition to desist. The congress, having again adjourned from Concord to Cambridge, paid no attention to the admonition, but went coolly and quietly forward with preparations for the public defence. Two general committees were appointed, one of Safety, the other of Supplies. A portion of the militia was ordered to be got in readiness for instant service, and the other New England Colonies were invited to contribute their quota to the little provisional army. Artemas Ward and Seth Pomeroy were appointed general officers of the troops.

1774. *November. The King pronounces the American Colonies "in rebellion."*

1774. *December. The Assembly of the English Colony of Jamaica memorialize the king in behalf of the American Colonies.*

1775. *Jan.* 12. *The King and Council resolve on cutting off all commerce with the Colonies; offering protection to the "loyal,"*

1774. *December* 14. **Patriotism at Portsmouth.** A company of several hundred men, gathered by drum and fife in the streets of Portsmouth, N.H., proceeded to the fort at the mouth of the harbor, and carried off a large quantity of powder there stored, belonging to the province. The next day another party stripped the fort of all its ordnance and ammunition.

1775. *March. April.* **Virginia for Defence.** The provincial convention of

Virginia assembled in Richmond on the 20th of March. Patrick Henry offered resolutions to put the Colony into a state of defence, and appointing a committee to superintend the organization of a suitable military force. These resolutions he supported in a glowing speech.* Whatever opposition to them existed was swept away, and they were adopted. The measures proposed were promptly carried into effect. Governor Dunmore retaliated by seizing the powder stored at Williamsburg.

but proscribing all others as rebels.

1775. *Jan.* 20. *The Earl of Chatham moves in the House of Lords for the immediate removal of British forces from Boston.*

1775. *Feb.* 9. *Parliament formally addresses the King, declaring Massachusetts in rebellion.*

III.

FROM THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

APRIL, 1775—JULY, 1776.

1775. *April* 19th. **The Battle of Lexington and Concord**. The event which is generally accepted as the formal opening of the Revolutionary War was the encounter between British troops and provincial militia-men at Lexington and Concord successively, on the 19th of April. These villages are respectively

1775. *April. The city of London presents to the King, through the Lord Mayor, a remonstrance*

* "The war is inevitable, — and let it come, let it come! Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but, as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

against the American policy.

about 10 and 20 miles north-west of Boston. At Concord, a quantity of military stores had been gathered by the Massachusetts Committees of Safety and Supplies, and General Gage determined on their seizure and destruction. Accordingly, on the night of the 18th of April, he secretly despatched a force of about 800 men to perform the service. The suspicious patriots quickly took the alarm, and as quickly gave it. Paul Revere rode out along the way to alarm the inhabitants.* When, at daybreak of the 19th, the British reached Lexington, they found several score of "minute-men" assembled on the common. Major Pitcairn, commanding the advance, rode forward, and with an oath called out: "Disperse, you rebels, throw down your arms and disperse!" or words to that effect. The minute-men, giving no sign of compliance, were then fired upon. Several of them fell, killed or wounded. Two or three British soldiers were wounded by random shots in return, but no further resistance was offered, and the expedition proceeded on its way, reaching Concord between 7 and 8 o'clock. By this time the whole region was alarmed, and from all the surrounding towns men had hurried to the spot. The British at once

* "Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, 'If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal-light, —
One, if by land, and two, if by sea, —
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Longfellow's "Paul Revere's Ride."

set about the destruction of the military stores, at the same time taking possession of the two bridges across the Sudbury and Concord rivers, beyond the village, thus to prevent any advance of the provincials who were gathered in considerable numbers on the other side. About the middle of the forenoon, the Americans, roused by the work of devastation proceeding in the village, moved against the force which held the "North Bridge" over the Concord River. A sharp encounter ensued, the British firing the first volley, and the Americans instantly and with spirit returning the fire. Several were killed and wounded on both sides. The British retired into the village, and about noon the entire force set out on its return. The Americans, now having the advantage, harassed the invaders at every step, and their homeward march proved a disastrous retreat. But for the reinforcements which met them at Lexington it must have ended in a rout. As it was, their losses in killed, wounded, and missing amounted to nearly 300; while those of the Americans were less than 100.

1775. *April—May*. **The Uprising**. The fight at Lexington and Concord was as the blow of a heavy hammer upon a piece of heated iron. The sparks flew in every direction. The militia of all New England flocked to arms and hurried to Boston. Rhode Island offered 1500 men, with Nathaniel Greene as their commander. From New Hampshire came John Stark, and from Connecticut Israel Putnam, each at a moment's notice, each a veteran of the Indian Wars. By the 1st of May, an unorganized force of 20,000 men had assembled, encircling Boston and shutting up the British within. Not only the men of New England, but those of the South, responded with all zeal to the summons of war. The heart of the people beat as one, and their hands were quickly joined for the common defence.

In New York, the royalist government found itself at a sudden disadvantage, and the patriotic masses of the people rose in their might to the direction of affairs. New Jersey summoned a provincial congress, and pledged itself to abide by the acts of the Continental Congress. Pennsylvania set itself to the organization of the militia. Delaware surrendered its military stores to the public use. Virginia sprang to arms, and under the lead of Patrick Henry compelled Governor Dunmore to restore the powder he had seized. And in none of the Colonies were bolder and more vigorous measures taken than in South Carolina and Georgia. Widely removed from the present scene of conflict, they yet nobly proved themselves in full sympathy with their suffering brethren at the North.

1775. *May.* **Ticonderoga and Crown Point.** Early in the month, a company of about 170 volunteers from Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, and what is now Vermont, led by Ethan Allen, marched to Lake Champlain, and captured in succession the important forts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point; a valuable quantity of arms, ammunition, and other military stores falling into their hands.

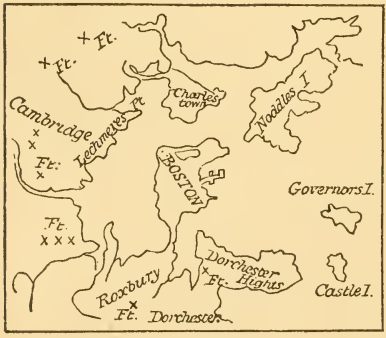
1775. *May.* **The "Mecklenburg Declaration."** The county of Mecklenburg in the highlands of North Carolina was populated by a community of sturdy Presbyterians. Moved by the address of Parliament to the King in February previous, and still more by the outbreak of hostilities at Lexington and Concord, they now met in formal convention at Charlotte, and united in a distinct declaration of independent rights and powers. A code of county laws was adopted, and notification of the step that had been taken was forwarded in different directions.

1775. *May* 10. **The Second Continental Congress**

assembled in Philadelphia at a very opportune time. Among the delegates were John Hancock and Samuel Adams, of Massachusetts; Roger Sherman, of Connecticut; Franklin, who had just returned from England; and Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia. The chief acts of this congress were the address of a petition to the King, declaring anew the allegiance of the Colonies and reiterating their demand for justice; the formation of a "Federal Union" for the better administration of all affairs in which the Colonies had a common interest; the taking of measures for the enlistment and equipment of an army and navy; the adoption of the volunteers then encamped about Boston as the Continental Army; and the appointment of George Washington * as Commander-in-chief.

* George Washington was then 43 years of age. In stature he a little exceeded six feet. His presence was stately. Few equalled him in strength or power of endurance. His complexion was florid, his hair dark brown; his head perfectly round. His dark blue eyes had an expression of earnestness almost amounting to sadness. He had grown up without the learning of the schools. His culture was his own. He was in the strictest sense a self-made man. At 16, he went into the wilderness as a surveyor. At 19, he was commissioned an adjutant-general. At 21, he went as envoy of Virginia to the Indians and the French in Ohio. Fame waited on him from youth. He conducted the first military expedition from Virginia that crossed the Alleghanies. Braddock commissioned him as an aid. When he was 24, at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor of Maryland, he was appointed second in command of the army designed to march to the Ohio. Courage was so natural to him that it was hardly spoken of him to his praise. He was as cheerful as he was spirited, frank, communicative, and joyous; liberal without ostentation, kindly and compassionate, prodigal of himself, but considerate of others. He was prudent in the management of his private affairs, but as a public man knew no other aim than the good of his country. His constitution was tempered with all the elements of activity. His mind resembled a well-ordered commonwealth In moments of highest excitement, he had the power of self-control, and excelled in patience even when he had most cause for disgust. In secrecy he was unsurpassed. His understanding was lucid, and his judgment accurate. No philosopher of the 18th century was more firm in the support of freedom of religious opinion; but belief in God and trust in his overruling power formed the essence of his character. He was persevering without being obstinate. His ambition was subordinate to his sense of duty. He loved the good opinion of his fellow-men, but neither fear of censure nor the prospect of applause could tempt him to swerve from rectitude. It is the greatness of Wash-

1775. *June* 17. **The Battle of Bunker Hill.** This memorable engagement grew out of the attempt of the Americans to fortify Charlestown against the occupation of the British. In form the victory fell to the British,* but in effect to the Americans. Under cover of the night, an expeditionary force of 1200 men, commanded by Colonel Prescott, marched from Cambridge to Charlestown Neck.



Boston and Vicinity, 1775.

One plan had been, it seems, to take up a position upon Bunker's Hill, as one of the eminences of the Charlestown peninsula was known. Prescott instead moved to an eminence a little nearer Boston, afterward known as Breed's Hill, and there established himself, his men spending the remainder of the night in throwing up a redoubt. The surprise of the British on discovering this in the morning was very great, and a heavy fire was promptly opened upon it by the vessels in the harbor. About noon, a body of troops was moved across in boats, and preparations were made to

ington that in public trusts he used power solely for the public good. Never has any man lived who had in so great a degree the almost divine faculty to command the confidence of his fellow-men. — *Abridged from Bancroft*, vol. vii. pp. 393–400.

* "Two more such victories, and England will have no army left in America." — *Vergennes.*

capture the redoubt. The first two assaults were repulsed. The ammunition of the Americans having given out, a third proved successful. The Americans retreated across Charlestown Neck, leaving the enemy in possession of the field. The British had in all about 3000 men engaged, and their losses were upwards of 1000 killed and wounded; the Americans, with not over 1500 men engaged, lost less than 500. The latter displayed great courage, and fought with remarkable steadiness, considering their inexperience. General Putnam shares with Colonel Prescott the honors of the day. Among the slain of the Americans was Dr. Joseph Warren, an eminent physician of Boston, whose ardent patriotism had brought him into the young army, and who had just been commissioned a brigadier-general.

1775. *July.* **Washington in Cambridge.** Less than a week after the Battle of Bunker Hill, Washington left Philadelphia for Cambridge, to take command of the army, which he did with due form on the 3d of July under an elm by the Common. The tree stands to this day, and is known as "the Washington Elm." Washington found a formidable task before him. The force at his command numbered about 14,000 men; unorganized, undisciplined, ununiformed, unequipped. Out of this material he had to form an army. Congress had elected as major-generals Artemas Ward, Charles Lee, Philip Schuyler, and Israel Putnam. Horatio Gates was appointed adjutant-general. There were eight brigadier-generals; namely, Seth Pomeroy, Richard Montgomery, David Wooster, William Heath, Joseph Spencer, John Thomas, John Sullivan, and Nathaniel Greene. Saving Montgomery, who was a gallant Irishman from New York, these eight were all New England men, three of them from Massachusetts.

1775. *July.* **Franklin's Proposal for a Confederation.** At this time, a plan was submitted to the Continental Congress by Franklin for combining the Colonies in a confederation, each Colony to govern itself under its own constitution, the general government to administer those affairs in which all had a common interest. Canada and Ireland were to be invited to join in this union. But the Congress was not yet ready for such a bold and decisive step. There were many still who hoped that such an extremity might be avoided, that the Crown would recede from its position, and that the Colonies might finally be left in their old relations to the mother country, in full enjoyment of every right and privilege demanded. And the hope of some such issue was for a time longer to stand in the way of severing the bond which now held the two together.

1775. *September — December.* **An Invasion of Canada.** This step was authorized by the Congress, chiefly with the purpose of heading off an expected countermovement by the British. Two expeditions were organized. One, directed by General Schuyler, but really led by General Montgomery, went by way of Lake Champlain; the other, commanded by General Arnold, by way of the Kennebec and Dead Rivers of Maine. Ethan Allen accompanied the first, and Aaron Burr the second, both as volunteers. Various adventures befell the two expeditions. Montgomery finally reached Montreal, and took it. Arnold reached Quebec, and was presently joined by Montgomery. Upon the 31st of December, a brave but unsuccessful assault was made upon the city. Montgomery was slain, and Arnold was badly wounded. The invading army remained in Canada through the winter, but finally withdrew, leaving the British in undisturbed possession.

1775. *September — December.* **A Busy Autumn.**

While Montgomery and Arnold were on their way to Canada, both the Colonies and the British continued active preparations for the conflict. The Congress reassembled in September, Georgia being represented for the first time. The importation of military stores was authorized; also the seizure of all ships freighted with stores for the British army and navy; and a committee was appointed for secret correspondence with friends of the Colonies in Europe. The British Parliament also acted with promptness and decision. The "rebels" were cruelly proscribed. It was voted to increase the army in America to 40,000 men, and negotiations were entered into with Russia and several German principalities, for the purpose of obtaining additional troops by hire. The Empress Catherine of Russia declined to let her soldiers for any such purpose, but the German princes were less scrupulous, and furnished among them several thousand men and a number of able generals. Efforts were also made to entice the Indians into an alliance against the Colonies, and to obtain recruits for the King's army from among the loyalists, or "Tories." Meantime, General Gage was superseded by General Howe as Commander-in-chief in America, and the British navy began attacks upon towns along the New England coast. Newport and Bristol, R.I., were bombarded, Falmouth (now the city of Portland, Me.) was destroyed, and others were threatened. American cruisers did good service on the coast in intercepting ships carrying supplies for the enemy. Two great difficulties attended the military movements of the Americans; namely, the

1775. *August. France despatches a confidential agent to America to ascertain the exact conditions and prospects of the Colonies.*

1775. *Lord Germain (Sackville) becomes Secretary of State for the American Colonies, under Lord North.*

scarcity of ammunition and the short enlistments of volunteers. It required all the sagacity of Congress and all the skill of the Commander-in-chief to keep the men in the field. As it was, the army numbered barely 10,000 men at the end of the year, though within a month or two of that time it was somewhat increased.

1775. *December. Parliament prohibits the trade of all the Colonies.*

1776. *January.* **Thomas Paine's "Common Sense."** Paine was an Englishman. At this time he had been in America but very little more than a year, but that period had been long enough for him to become thoroughly imbued with the spirit of political liberty. He now wrote a pamphlet entitled "Common Sense," in which he energetically advocated the independence of the Colonies and the founding of a republic. This pamphlet immediately attained an enormous circulation, and undoubtedly exerted a powerful influence in toning up the public mind for the step next to be taken.

1776. *January.* **Burning of Norfolk, Va.** Governor Dunmore of Virginia tried to hold his province for the Crown, and in a struggle with the patriots for the possession of Norfolk caused that town to be set on fire. It was totally destroyed, involving a loss of several hundred thousand pounds.*

1776. *February. Fox moves in the House of Commons for a committee to "inquire into the ill-success of his Majesty's arms in America."*

1776. *February — May.* **Measures of the Congress.** The acts of the Continental Congress during the early months of this year bore a highly important part in fixing the policy and shaping the course of the Colonies. Military districts were created; the paper currency

* "I hope this and the threatened devastation of other places will unite the whole country in an indissoluble bond against a nation which seems lost to every sense of virtue, and those feelings which distinguish a civilized people from the most barbarous savages." — *Gen. Washington.*

was increased to two millions of dollars; Silas Deane of Connecticut was appointed commissioner to France to solicit aid; the fitting out of privateers was authorized; the importation of slaves into any of "the thirteen United Colonies" was prohibited; and the ports of the Colonies were declared open and free to the commerce of the world. Benjamin Franklin and two others were sent to Canada to invite the people of that province to set up an independent government and join the proposed American union. About the middle of May, the Congress, yielding to the inspiring leadership of John Adams, resolved that the time had now come for suppressing the exercise of all authority under the Crown, and for the people of the Colonies to take the government of their affairs into their own hands. This was a decided step in advance of any general action that had yet been taken, and was one of the more immediate preliminaries to the Declaration of Independence soon to follow.

1776. *Feb.—March. Strong opposition manifested in Parliament to the measures of the Ministry.*

1776. *March* 17. **The Evacuation of Boston.** The British were now prisoners * in Boston, and at the same time masters of it. The Old South Church was turned

* "*Cambridge, January* 11. Last Monday evening Major Knowlton was despatched with 100 men to make an incursion into Charlestown. He crossed the Mill-dam, which lays between Cobble Hill and Bunker's Hill, about nine o'clock, and immediately proceeded down the street on the westerly side of Bunker's Hill; a part of the men, under the command of Captain Kyes, at the same time were ordered to take post on the east side of the street, just under the hill, in order to intercept any persons who might escape from the houses in the street, some of which were occupied by the enemy. These houses, which were a little without the compact part of the town, the enemy suffered to remain unburnt in June last, for their own convenience. They were now surrounded and set fire to by our men. In one of them, they found six soldiers and one woman, all of whom, except one refractory fellow, who was killed, were brought off. In another of the houses, according to the information of the prisoners, lived 17 of the enemies' carpenters. As the woman says she went to this house, in order to borrow something, just before our men arrived, but seeing no light, and not being able to get into that part of the house where they

into a riding-school for the cavalry, and Faneuil Hall had been made a playhouse. Congress urged upon Washington the taking of the town. The moral effect of such an achievement was greatly needed. Washington was disposed to favor a direct assault. His lieutenants objected. It was accordingly determined to occupy Dorchester Heights on the south. The movement was skilfully executed in the night under cover of a heavy cannonade, which directed the attention of the British to another point. The morning of the 5th of March saw a strong American force in fortified possession of the heights. The position so commanded Boston and the harbor that nothing was left for the British but to fight or to retire. The first impulse was to do the former, but the final decision was to do the latter. On the 17th of March the evacuation was accomplished. The British troops sailed away in their transports, accompanied by more than 1000 inhabitants belonging to the party known as "Tories," whose sympathies were with England rather than with the Colonies. Washington entered the town in triumph the same day, and in due time received from Congress a vote of thanks and a gold medal.

1776. *April — June.* **Colonial Action.** The growth of public sentiment in the direction of independence had been very rapid throughout the Colonies. By the light of events at Lexington and Concord, at Bunker Hill, at Norfolk and at Charleston, the people had found their way well up to the advanced ground taken by Samuel Adams and Patrick

kept, she concluded they were all asleep; as it is very certain no one escaped from the house; and as our men set the building on fire very suddenly, — it is thought the whole 17 perished in the flames. We burnt 10 houses, and brought off 6 or 7 muskets. Three or four houses are still standing. The whole was performed in less than one hour, without the loss of a single man, either killed or wounded, notwithstanding the enemy kept up a considerable fire of musketry from Bunker's Hill." — *The New England Chronicle, or The Essex Gazette, Cambridge, January* 11, 1776.

Henry a long time before, when the former had said: "Independent we are, and independent we will be;" and the latter: "We must fight! An appeal to arms and the God of Hosts is all that is left us." In April, the provincial congress of North Carolina empowered its delegates in the Continental Congress to "concur with the delegates of the other Colonies in declaring independency and forming foreign alliances;" and the Chief Justice of South Carolina, opening his court at Charleston, declared that the King had abdicated government over the Colony, and that no further allegiance was due him. In May, the General Assembly of Rhode Island passed by a nearly unanimous vote an act declaring that Colony absolved from further allegiance to Great Britain, and charging its delegates in the Congress to favor all measures fitted to secure its independence and at the same time to cement and strengthen union between the several Colonies.

1776. *May. The King of France determines on a grant of money to the Colonies.*

1776. *June* 12. **The Action of Virginia**. Perhaps the most important colonial action which marked this hour was that of Virginia, whose convention, in May, by a unanimous vote had instructed its delegates in the Congress to propose a declaration of the independence of the United Colonies. A platform of rights was now adopted, as setting forth the groundwork of American institutions. Some of its phrases were these: —

"All men are by nature equally free and have inherent rights. . . . All power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people. . . . Government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit and security. . . . No man ought to be deprived of liberty, except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers. . . . The freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty. . . . Religion can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence.

Here are the great outlines of the political institutions which we enjoy to-day. Patrick Henry, James Madison, Edmund Randolph, George Mason, and others of Virginia, were their authors. This movement of the oldest of the Colonies was quickly communicated to the others; and Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, acting, it is true, with different degrees of alacrity, fell into line.

1776. *June.* **An Expedition against Charleston, S.C.** Early in the year, a considerable British force, commanded by Sir Henry Clinton, had left Boston by water for the southward. Its destination was a secret, but was believed by the Americans to be New York. Clinton touched at that point, and then kept on toward Charleston, S.C., the capture of which proved to be the object of the expedition. On the way, he was joined by Sir Peter Parker, with a squadron fresh from England. The combined forces arrived off Charleston in June, and on the 28th made an attack on the fort which had been erected for its defence on Sullivan's Island. A garrison of 400 men, commanded by Colonel Moultrie, offered a valiant resistance; and the British were finally repulsed, with upwards of 200 killed and wounded. The losses of the garrison were only about 30.

IV.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

JUNE—JULY, 1776.

1776. *June* 7. **The Lee Resolutions.** Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, according to the authority conferred by the provincial assembly (see p. 47), proposed in the Continental Congress resolutions as follows: —

"That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved; that it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign alliances; and that a plan of confederation be prepared, and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

These resolutions were seconded by John Adams, and their consideration made the special order for the following day. A long and animated debate ensued. Those who opposed the resolutions, among whom were Livingston of New York, John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, contended that the proposed action was premature and inexpedient, and urged their views in strong language. The resolutions were, however, skilfully keyed to the popular pitch, as represented in the Congress; and the voice of the delegates from Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and the New England Colonies was strongly in their favor. The discussion was prolonged through a second day, and ended in an agreement to postpone action until some of the delegates could consult with their constituents. At the same time, a committee of five was elected by

ballot to draw up a declaration that should be in harmony with the resolutions. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston. Immediately following this, the Congress appointed committees to prepare plans of colonial confederation and of treaty relations with foreign powers; created a Board of War; and resolved: —

"That all persons abiding within any of the United Colonies, and deriving protection from its laws, owe allegiance to the said laws, and are members of such Colony."

1776. *July* 4. **The Declaration.** On the 1st of July, the Lee resolutions came up in the Congress for further consideration. Every Colony was represented, the delegates numbering about 50. The resolutions were first taken up in committee of the whole, and underwent further discussion, in which John Adams, John Dickinson, John Witherspoon, and others, participated. Upon the following day, they were formally adopted by the Congress, 12 Colonies voting in their favor. New York alone did not vote. The next step was the consideration of the report of the committee on a declaration. The drafting of this important paper had been assigned by the committee to Mr. Jefferson,* both as

* The quality which specially fitted him for the task was the sympathetic character of his nature, by which he was able to read the soul of the nation, and having collected in himself its best thoughts and noblest feelings to give them out in clear and bold words, mixed with so little of himself, that his country found nothing but what it recognized as its own. Born to an independent fortune, he had from his youth been an indefatigable student. Of a philosophic cast of mind, calm temperament, always temperate in his mode of life, he was a perfect master of his passions. He was of a delicate organization and fond of elegance; his tastes were refined; laborious in his application to business, music was his favorite recreation; and he took a never-failing delight in the beauty of rural life. He was a skilful horseman; he also delighted to roam on foot. The range of his knowledge was very wide; he was thought to be indifferent to religion; yet he believed more than he himself was aware of. His profession was that of the law. Whatever he had to do, it was his custom to prepare himself for it carefully; so that in council men willingly gave him the lead,

having received the larger number of votes and as being the representative of Virginia. "From the fulness of his own mind," says Bancroft, "without consulting one single book, Jefferson drafted the resolution." Having received some slight verbal emendations from the hands of Franklin and John Adams, it had been adopted by the committee, and on the 28th of June formally reported to the Congress. Now, on the 2d of July, following the adoption of the Lee resolutions, its consideration was in order. In the discussion which ensued, the document was subjected to considerable criticism. One or two severe strictures upon the policy of the King, especially with regard to the protection of the slave-trade, were expunged, but no other changes of importance were made. And on the 4th of July, at evening, by the vote of twelve Colonies now resolved into States, New York as before not voting, the immortal paper was adopted. It is as follows: —

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, ADOPTED BY CONGRESS JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

which he never appeared to claim, and was always able to undertake. It was a beautiful trait in his character that he was free from envy. By the general consent of Virginia, he already stood first among her civilians. Just 33 years old, married, and happy in his family, affluent, with a bright career before him, he was no rash innovator: his measures grew so naturally out of previous law and the facts of the past, that they struck deep root and have endured.—*Abridged from Bancroft*, vol. viii. pp. 462–466.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world: —

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome, and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation, till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large, for their exercise; the State remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the danger of invasions from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of land.

He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation: —

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders, which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the powers of our governments;

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts made by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war; in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in general congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, *Free* and *Independent States;* that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as *Free* and *Independent States*, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which *Independent States* may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

JOHN HANCOCK.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. — Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

MASSACHUSETTS BAY. — Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

RHODE ISLAND, ETC. — Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

CONNECTICUT. — Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

NEW YORK. —William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

NEW JERSEY. — Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

PENNSYLVANIA. — Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.

DELAWARE. — Cæsar Rodney, George Read, Thomas M'Kean.

MARYLAND. — Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

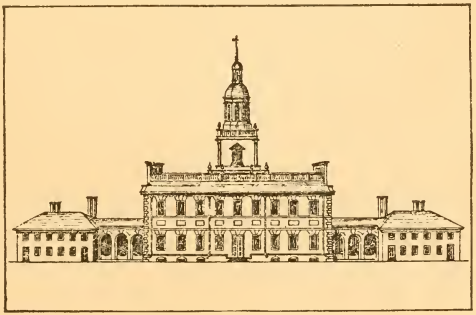
VIRGINIA. — George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

NORTH CAROLINA. — William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

SOUTH CAROLINA. — Edward Rutledge, Thomas Hayward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton.

GEORGIA. — Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

On the same day with its adoption by the Congress, the Declaration of Independence was duly authenticated by the President and Secretary, though it did not receive the signatures of the delegates till some time afterward.* Thus



Independence Hall, Philadelphia.

* It is related that, when the members of the Congress came up to sign the Declaration, John Hancock said to the others: "We must be unanimous; there must be no pulling different ways; we must all hang together." To which Franklin rejoined: "Yes, we must all hang together, or we shall hang separately."

it is that the Fourth of July is celebrated as Independence Day, and that the present year, 1876, is the Centennial Year. The building in which the Congress was holding its sessions, now known as Independence Hall, was surrounded with an excited crowd, eager to know the result of the proceedings within. No sooner had the vote been taken than a public signal was given by the ringing of the bell, which had been hung in the edifice some years before. This bell very appropriately bore the inscription: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Its sound under these circumstances was hailed with acclamations, and the rapid publication of the Declaration was everywhere received with demonstrations of great joy.*

V.

FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE TO BURGOYNE'S SURRENDER.

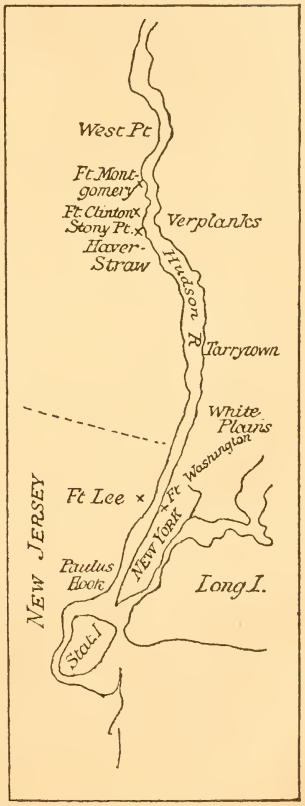
JULY, 1776 — OCTOBER, 1777.

1776. *June — July.* **The British at New York.** The necessity to the Colonies of holding New York had been obvious from the beginning of hostilities. To a considerable degree, the wealth and influence of the city were on the side of the Tories. Early measures were taken

* The official chair of John Hancock, used by him as President of the Congress, and the table on which Jefferson drafted the Declaration, are now in Independence Hall at Philadelphia. The chair was also used by Washington as President of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and afterwards served as the Speaker's chair in the national House of Representatives for a great many years. The table likewise was used at the Constitutional Convention, and upon it the constitution was signed.

by Washington to occupy it, and to determine the question of its possession in favor of the patriots. When the British sailed away from Boston, it was surmised that they would go to New York, which they did, though by the roundabout way of Halifax, and Washington hurried on to receive them. He succeeded in putting the island in a tolerable state of defence before their arrival, which was at the very end of June. General Howe landed his troops on Staten Island, and his fleet filled the bay. Here he was to be joined by his brother, Admiral Howe, with reinforcements from England; and here was enacted the next important scene of the war.

1776. July. France provides military stores for the United States.



New York and Vicinity.

1776. *August 27.* **The Battle of Long Island.** The fortifications which Wash-

ington had caused to be constructed for the defence of New York included works upon the western extremity of Long Island, the territory now covered by the city of Brooklyn and its suburbs. For the possession of this ground, a battle was fought on the 27th of August, British troops to the number of 20,000 or more having crossed from Staten Island a few days before. The Americans had scarcely a third of that force. They were undisciplined, poorly equipped, their generals were without experience, and they suffered from various disadvantages. Nevertheless, they fought with great gallantry, and the British chiefly owed the victory which they won to the superior strength of their battalions. Some misunderstandings among themselves, and consequent confusion, contributed to the ill-fortune of the Americans. The losses were comparatively heavy on both sides. Finally, under cover of the night and by favor of a fog, the Americans retreated across the river, leaving the British in possession of the field.

1776. *September—December.* **The Retreat Southward.** As a result of the Battle of Long Island, the Americans were soon compelled to evacuate New York, the city remaining in the hands of the British from that time until the end of the war.* For a time Washington succeeded in holding the upper part of the island, but in the end deemed it prudent to retire before the advance of the British. An affecting incident of this trying period was the fate of Nathan Hale, a young and promising American

* New York at this time had a population of 20,000 or 25,000. Broadway was the principal street There were few buildings above Trinity Church, and guide-posts pointed out the "Road to Boston." Broad Street was a fashionable avenue, and Wall Street contained the residences of rich citizens. There were some ten churches. On the 21st of September, only a few days after the city had been abandoned to the British, a disastrous conflagration broke out, which raged from midnight until nearly midday following. All the buildings between Broad Street and the North River, for a considerable distance, were destroyed, and several lives were lost. The British charged the Americans with incendiarism.

officer, who had volunteered to penetrate the British lines in disguise for the purpose of obtaining military information. He was caught and summarily executed. During the few hours that he remained in captivity, he was very brutally treated, but his last words were: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." The successive steps of the autumn's campaign about New York were frequent skirmishings between outposts; a spirited engagement at White Plains, in which the British gained a partial advantage; an assault upon Fort Washington, on the banks of the Hudson, which after a brave defence was surrendered to the British, with 2000 prisoners; an abandonment of Fort Lee upon the opposite bank of the Hudson; and finally a forced withdrawal of all the American troops to the Jersey shore and a movement southward, the British still in pursuit. These operations seemed generally disastrous to the American cause, and their effect was depressing throughout the Colonies. They were particularly trying to Washington, who in addition continued to suffer much from the unpardonable apathy and unwarrantable interference of the Congress, the dishonorable jealousies of some of his generals, and the extemporaneous character of his army.

1776. *October.* **The Campaign on Lake Champlain.** The retirement of the American expeditionary forces from Canada to the vicinity of Crown Point had left the British troops in that province at liberty to attempt a junction with General Howe at New York, by way of Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Albany, however, was the immediate objective point of Sir Guy Carleton, who was in command. Through the summer he had made extensive preparations

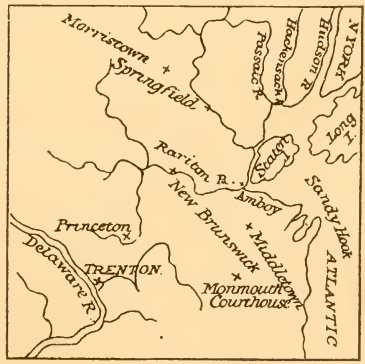
1776. *December. Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee begin negotiations in Paris for a treaty with France.*

for moving his troops southward by water, and early in October his advance began. The Americans under General Gates, whose headquarters were at Ticonderoga, took corresponding measures to oppose him. A rude naval squadron was extemporized under command of General Arnold. On the 11th of October, a sharp battle was fought on the waters of Lake Champlain. The Americans were worsted, but after such a manner that Carleton thought it prudent to return to Canada, and postpone further advance until spring.

1776. *December*. **The Capture of General Charles Lee**. Charles Lee was an Englishman. He was a strange compound of the soldier, the politician, and the adventurer. He had served in the British army with credit in the French and Indian War, and afterwards in several continental armies. Failing to receive at home the appreciation which he felt he deserved, he came to America again, and identified himself with the patriot cause. His talents and experience earned for him a generous recognition, and on the organization of the continental army he was appointed a major-general. At the time of Washington's retreat through New Jersey, he was second in command, but had failed to render the good and faithful service which was to be expected of him. He had a great sense of his own importance, was a secret backbiter of Washington, and aspired to an independent, if not to the supreme, command. To his disobedience and dilatoriness during the campaign about New York its unfortunate course is to be attributed in no small degree. Lee was now (December) in New Jersey at the head of a considerable force, but showing no disposition to co-operate with Washington. On the contrary, he was rather boastfully bent on an independent campaign of his own. On the 13th, while lolling in a tavern

at Baskingridge, and just as he had finished a characteristic letter to General Gates, the house was suddenly surrounded by a party of British scouts, and he was taken prisoner. Lee's subsequent career, though he was for a time restored to the service, added no lustre to his name. It only extended the field for the exhibition of his disagreeable eccentricities, and afforded some occasion for suspicions of his fidelity to the cause he had espoused. His capture at this time was esteemed a misfortune, but was a blessing in disguise, if for no other reason in that it brought riddance to Washington of a most unworthy and troublesome rival.

1776. *December* 26. **The Battle of Trenton.** Washington's retreat through New Jersey had been kept up until he had put the river Delaware between his little army and its pursuers. Only the lack of boats seems to have kept the latter from crossing and continuing the pursuit. Howe returned to New York, but left a considerable body of German troops under Donop and Rall to hold Trenton. The situation was a critical one. The Congress at Philadelphia thought it prudent to withdraw to Baltimore. The army was diminished and dispirited. But it was the dark hour before dawn. Washing-



New Jersey.

ton determined on recrossing the Delaware, and attacking Trenton. On Christmas night he put this plan in execution. Owing to the darkness, the cold, and the quantities of floating ice, the passage of the river, which was effected by boats, was a matter of great difficulty; but the movement was a complete success. The German mercenaries were taken by surprise, and after a short resistance they surrendered. A thousand prisoners were taken and a valuable quantity of ordnance. The moral effect of this victory of the Americans was great beyond proportion.

1776. *December*. **Measures of the Congress.** The alarm with which the Congress had adjourned from Philadelphia to Baltimore was dispelled by the victory at Trenton, and new courage and vigor were infused into its counsels. It had already abandoned all hopes of compromise with Great Britain, and now bore witness to the determination of the people to prosecute the war to a successful termination at every cost. It invested Washington with new powers, authorizing him in particular to enlist a considerable body of national troops, and to appoint or dismiss officers of the colonial regiments, under the rank of brigadier-general, at his discretion.

1776. Eight State Governments. During this year, a number of the Colonies had adopted new forms of government, thereby erecting themselves into substantially independent States, and preparing the way for that union which was afterward to be consummated. In Rhode Island and Connecticut, no greater change of existing instruments was needed than the simple displacement of the King's name. New Jersey perfected her new constitution in July; Delaware and Pennsylvania adopted theirs in September, the operation of Pennsylvania's being, however, delayed for some months beyond that time; Maryland in November, and

North Carolina in December. In this general movement, Virginia had taken the lead, as before noticed. The remaining Colonies, Georgia,* New York,† South Carolina,‡ Massachusetts,§ and New Hampshire,‖ followed at subsequent times in the order named.¶

1777. *January* 3. **The Battle of Princeton.** Immediately after his victory at Trenton, Washington had withdrawn his army again across the Delaware. But he was now emboldened to attempt the expulsion of the British from New Jersey altogether, and in a few days he was once more at Trenton. A concentration of all available forces there gave him an army of about 5000 men. His situation here at once invited the attention of the British, who were at Princeton. Led by Cornwallis, they moved against him. Skirmishing ensued, and a second battle at Trenton was imminent, when by a skilful and energetic flank movement Washington withdrew from his position under cover of the night, and fell upon Princeton, which was still defended by a force about equal to his own. A sharp engagement ensued, and victory was saved for the Americans chiefly by the personal daring and inspiring example of their commander-in-chief. The destitute and fatigued condition of his troops prevented Washington from following up his advantage to the fullest extent; but

* See p. 65. † See p. 65. ‡ See p. 76.
§ See p. 85. ‖ See p. 100.

¶ The age of 21 was universally required by the constitutions of all the States as a qualification for the ballot; and, in the case of ten of the constitutions, no condition of "color" was imposed. Eleven out of the thirteen provided for a double-legislative body. Most of them required varying property qualifications in candidates for the legislature or the governorship, and withheld from the governor all share in the making of laws. The powers of the latter office were also very much restricted; all important civil and military positions were to be filled by the legislature. Massachusetts and Connecticut were alone in providing a system of free public schools, and Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Georgia, and the Carolinas required religious qualifications for office.

he had by this time won the sympathy and co-operation of the people, and soon came into practically undisputed possession of the State. He made Morristown his headquarters for the remainder of the winter. The nobility of Washington's character was brought out more impressively than ever by the vicissitudes of this campaign.*

1777. The Early Months of 1777, if not characterized by events of conspicuous importance, witnessed a variety of incidents that were closely related to the progress and issue of the war. The American and British armies lay quietly in their winter quarters in New Jersey; the former with headquarters at Morristown, the latter at New Brunswick and Amboy. Advantage of the pause in hostilities was taken by the British authorities to open negotiations looking toward peace, but on terms to which the Americans would not listen. The Congress appointed a number of new generals for the army, and its omission to promote Arnold inflicted upon his spirit a wound which was never healed. General Gates succeeded to Lee's place as the jealous and boastful rival of Washington. Expeditions of English troops destroyed valuable military stores belonging to the Americans at Peekskill on the Hudson and at Danbury in Connecticut, the latter feat being followed by a sharp skirmish at Ridge-

1777. *February. Frederick of Prussia expresses his sympathies for America.*

* "Will posterity believe the tale? When it shall be consistent with policy to give the history of that man from his first introduction into our service, how often America has been rescued from ruin by the mere strength of his genius, conduct, and courage, encountering every obstacle that want of money, men, arms, ammunition, could throw in his way, an impartial world will say to you that he is the greatest man on earth. Misfortunes are the element in which he shines, they are the groundwork on which his picture appears to the greatest advantage. He rises superior to them all; they serve as foils to his fortitude, and as stimulants to bring into view those great qualities which his modesty keeps concealed." — *Letter of William Hooper, Representative to the Congress from North Carolina, to Robert Morris.*

field, in which the marauders suffered severely. A counter-movement of the Americans against Sag Harbor on Long Island was a brilliant success. Abroad, the English ministry responded to General Howe's call for reinforcements, by obtaining several thousand more mercenaries from the petty German States. In Paris, the American commissioners, Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, were busy in secret negotiations with the French ministry and the Spanish ambassador for moral and material aid for the struggling Colonies. Neither France nor Spain were yet ready for a formal recognition of America as a belligerent power and so for open co-operation against England; but "secret succors" were extended to the "insurgents," and currents of sympathy set in motion which were afterward to bear substantial aid.

1777. *February.* **The Constitution of Georgia** was unanimously adopted in convention.

1777. *April.* **The Constitution of New York** was adopted in convention specially authorized for the purpose.

1777. *April.* **Lafayette and Others.** The Marquis de Lafayette was a young French nobleman and soldier, whose heart had been warmed by the tidings from America. Though but twenty years of age, and representing an illustrious family, he determined to devote his personal service to the cause of the young nation. A devoted wife approved and confirmed his purpose. He was accompanied to this country by a number of officers, among others the Baron De Kalb; and his arrival on such a mission, at a time when the prospects of the patriots were so uncertain, was a circumstance of great encouragement and an occasion of great rejoicing. He was received as an

Steady shipment of stores from France to America. American privateers find ready refuge in French harbors. England remonstrates.

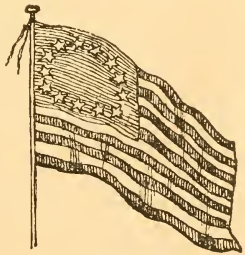
embodiment of that friendly feeling and practical help which were so much desired and needed. His appearance is commonly esteemed "as one of the most prominent and important circumstances in our revolutionary contest; and, as has often been said by one who bore no small part in its trials and success, none but those who were then alive can believe what an impulse it gave to the hopes of a population almost disheartened by a long series of disasters." Lafayette was heartily welcomed by the Congress, and at once commissioned a major-general. A warm friendship sprang up between him and Washington, and his military services proved of the most valuable character. Before Lafayette and De Kalb, there had come to America, with a like purpose to theirs, the Polish patriot, Kosciuszko, who at present held a commission as officer of engineers in the American army; and there now soon followed the Count Pulaski, also a Pole, whose services likewise proved of great value. Another foreign soldier of distinction, who at about the same time linked his fortunes with the American cause, was the Baron Steuben, a Prussian, formerly an aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great and a lieutenant-general in his army. Steuben rendered most important services to the American army as inspector-general, being especially instrumental in the improvement of its discipline. He was no less eminent for his fine personal qualities than for his military abilities. At the close of the war, he settled upon a large estate near Utica, N.Y., where he died in 1794.

1777. May. The Earl of Chatham appears in the House of Lords in flannels and on crutches, and entreats a cessation of hostilities.

1777. *June.* **The British evacuate New Jersey.** In the last days of May, the American army broke up its winter quarters at Morristown. It now consisted of about

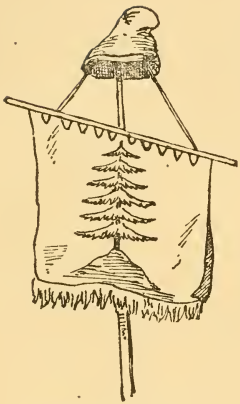
7,500 men, embraced in five divisions, ten brigades, and forty-three regiments. To it were opposed a force of not less than 17,000 trained soldiers ably officered. Howe's purposes for the spring campaign, without seeming to be very definite, were such as would have brought on a general engagement, had not Washington studiously avoided that issue. Washington was too great a general to fight when he could accomplish a desired result without fighting.* A series of strategic movements ensued around the very edge of the field of actual conflict, and attended by occasional skirmishings. As a result, the British withdrew from New Jersey. Throughout these operations, Washington's conspicuous military genius and serene and lofty temper were displayed with new impressiveness.

1777. *June* 14. **The Flag.** While Washington and Howe were marching and countermarching their armies in New Jersey, the Congress, on the 14th of June, resolved "that the flag of the thirteen United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Up to this time, a variety of flags had been used, of private or sectional design: this is the first recorded national act upon the



The Flag of 1777.

* "We have some amongst us, and I dare say generals, who wish to make themselves popular at the expense of others, or who think the cause is not to be advanced otherwise than by fighting; . . . but, as I have one great object in view, I shall steadily pursue the means which in my judgment leads to the accomplishment of it, not doubting but that the candid part of mankind, if they are convinced of my integrity, will make proper allowance for my inexperience and frailties." — *Letter of Washington to Reed.*



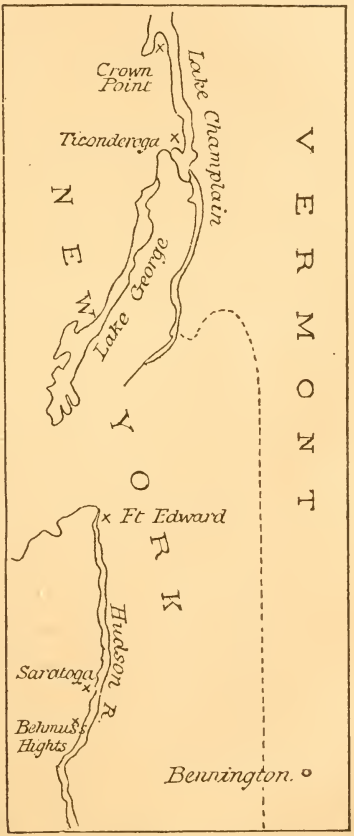
The Pine-Tree Flag.

subject. In the flag of 1777, the stars were arranged in a circle, and it is said that it was first displayed by Paul Jones on the "Ranger." One star has since been added to the "Union" with the admission of every new State.

1777. *July* 4. **The First Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence** was celebrated in Philadelphia by the ringing of bells, a public dinner, parades, fireworks, and a general illumination; the first "Fourth of July" in the long line, whose hundredth number is the occasion of such unusual commemoration.

1777. *June—September.* **Burgoyne's Advance from Canada.** About the middle of June, General Burgoyne, having been appointed to the command of the British army in Canada in place of Sir Guy Carleton, set forth in pursuance of orders to form a connection with Howe at New York. He had a fine body of troops, numbering in all towards ten thousand, including a specially strong artillery force, some Indian allies, and several highly accomplished officers. A part of his army was sent by way of Lake Ontario and the Mohawk River: with the rest, he proceeded himself by way of Lake Champlain. Ticonderoga, which commanded the avenue of his advance, was occupied by a detachment of Schuyler's army, numbering several thousand men, under General St. Clair. Out of this stronghold the Americans were forced by Burgoyne's

superior tactics, and took up a retreat to Fort Edward on the Hudson, Schuyler's head-quarters. The movement cost them large quantities of valuable military stores, which had to be abandoned to their pursuers, and some lives. Schuyler, in place of standing to the support of St. Clair, retreated below Fort Edward, and thence to the vicinity of Saratoga, where he was presently relieved from command. While Burgoyne was making this triumphant progress with his main army, the side expedition which he had sent out by way of the west met with a repulse in a desperate fight with the settlers in



Lake Champlain and Saratoga.

the Mohawk Valley, and came to an inglorious end. This entire series of operations was marked by the most fiendish atrocities on the part of the Indian allies of the British. One well-remembered incident was the treacherous massacre of a young woman named Jane MacCrea, by two savages who were conducting her to the camp of her lover, an officer in the British service.

1777. *August* 16. **The Battle of Bennington.** The Americans had collected valuable stores at Bennington, Vt., due east, and not many miles distant, from the point now reached by Burgoyne. He determined on their capture, and despatched upon that errand, in two successive detachments, a force of several hundred troops, chiefly Germans, under command of Lieutenant-Colonels Baum and Breymann. The New England militia hastened to the defence of the threatened point, having for their leader General Stark, who before this had retired from the continental army. A battle ensued, which was fought in two parts, Stark first engaging Baum and then Breymann, and defeating them both. The Americans fought with great gallantry, and won their double victory at small cost. Their conduct was marked by some quaint and amusing incidents, which, with their valor, success, and the effect of it at such a time, make the battle one of the most memorable of the whole war.

1777. *October* 17. **Burgoyne's Surrender at Saratoga.** General Gates, who had succeeded Schuyler, found himself in command of about 9000 men, and took up a strong position at what was known as Behmus's Heights. Here he was met by Burgoyne, and an engagement took place on the 19th of September. Great bravery was shown on both sides; but the result was indeterminate, unless measured by the losses, which to the Americans were

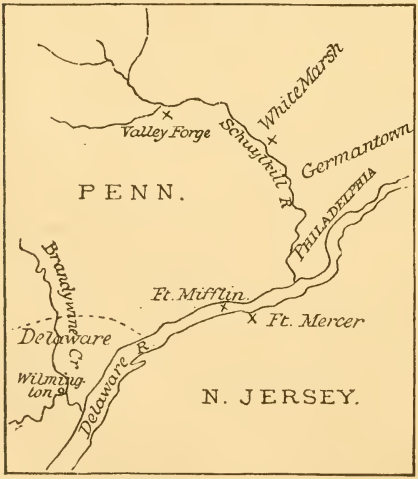
about 300, to the British more than double that number; while the British were certainly left in the more dangerous situation of the two. To add to their embarrassments, their communications with Canada had been cut off by a party of Americans who had penetrated their rear. For several weeks, the two armies remained watching each other, Burgoyne meantime drawing some encouragement from a diversion which General Clinton had undertaken in his favor from New York, the result of which was the capture from the Americans of Forts Montgomery and Clinton on the Hudson, just below West Point, thus practically opening the river to Albany. The neglect of Clinton to follow up this advantage alone enabled Gates to follow up that which he had won. Gates received reinforcements. Burgoyne's force was constantly diminishing, his supplies were giving out, and his communications were interrupted. Under these circumstances, he planned a fierce attack upon the American position (October 7). It was repulsed. A general engagement was brought on. The Americans gained at every point. Night alone saved the British from a rout. The morning found them in retreat to Saratoga, a few miles distant. The Americans followed, and by the 12th of the month had their camp quite invested. Burgoyne, sustained by his lieutenants, opened negotiations for surrender, and the articles were signed on the 17th. Six thousand or more prisoners thus fell into the hands of the Americans, beside immense quantities of military stores. So was practically destroyed the British army of the North, and with it ended the war, so far as New England territory was concerned.

VI.

FROM BURGOYNE'S SURRENDER TO THE CAMPAIGN OF 1779.

OCTOBER, 1777 — DECEMBER, 1778.

1777. *July—November.* **The Philadelphia Campaign.** Upon retiring from New Jersey, General Howe turned his attention to Philadelphia, for which point, having embarked an army of some 17,000 men in transports, he set sail in July. Finding the Delaware in possession of the Americans, he proceeded up the Chesapeake, and landed at the head of that great estuary. In the mean time, Washington with his army, which at this time never ex-



Philadelphia and Vicinity.

ceeded 12,000 men, had marched by land to meet him, and advanced a little beyond Wilmington. Here, on the 3d of September, began the struggle for the possession of Philadelphia. Skirmishing between the outposts speedily ran into a battle, which was fought on the 11th, on the banks of Brandywine Creek. Washington's movements were crippled by the incapacity, or worse, of some of his lieutenants; and his army was defeated with the loss of about a thousand. The British loss was about half as large. This defeat of the Americans opened the way for the British army to occupy Philadelphia, which was done on the 26th. The main body was encamped in the suburb of Germantown. The Congress had previously withdrawn in some alarm to Lancaster.

1777. *October* 4. **The Battle of Germantown.** The temporary weakening of Howe's army by the sending of detachments for work elsewhere tempted Washington to essay an attack upon it in its camp at Germantown. The movement was carefully planned, and undertaken with great courage and vigor at daybreak on the 4th, but failed through lack of co-operation on the part of subordinate officers. The attacking force lost its unity, its fragments fell into some confusion, and after a brisk engagement of short duration a retreat was ordered.

1777. *October* 22—*November* 16. **The Forts on the Delaware.** The British followed up their gains at Brandywine Creek and Germantown by moving against Forts Mercer and Mifflin, two fortifications on the Delaware, a few miles below Philadelphia, held by the Americans, and commanding the river approaches to the city. Fort Mercer was attacked by them first, and both finally fell into their hands, though defended with great valor. In the capture of the former, Count Donop, a German officer of

1777. *November. At the reopening of Parliament the Earl of Chatham lifts up his voice anew against a continuance of the war.*†

distinction, lost his life.* Taken altogether, General Howe's Philadelphia campaign had been externally a success, but in some aspects of it the American found much encouragement; and this, added to the moral effects of the triumph of the northern army, went far toward offsetting any actual reverses.

1777. *November* 15. **Confederation.** While military movements were thus progressing, the Congress was at work shaping the civil policy of the new nation. From Lancaster it removed after a few days to Yorktown, and there on the 15th of November adopted articles of "Confederation and perpetual Union." These were submitted to the several States, and their approval of them solicited. The distinguishing principle of this early scheme of organization was its careful reservation to each individual State of its own complete sovereignty. The time was not yet ripe for the merging of separate authorities into a central government, thereby compacting the States into an organic union. This remained to be accomplished by the adoption of the national constitution a number of years later. Towards that result, however, the confederation was to lead the way. The peoples of the several States needed perhaps to get accustomed to their several identities before taking a public stand as "the people of the United

* "I die the victim of my ambition, and of the avarice of my sovereign." — *Donop's last words.*

† "You may swell every expense, accumulate every assistance you can buy or borrow, traffic and barter with every pitiful little German prince that sells and sends his subjects to the shambles of a foreign prince: your efforts are for ever vain and impotent, doubly so from this mercenary aid on which you rely, for it irritates to an incurable resentment. If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country, I never would lay down my arms; never, never, never."

States." Therefore the latter phrase was allowed no place in the articles of confederation. Nor were these articles even adopted by all the States, until after a delay of nearly four years.

1777–1778. The Camp at Valley Forge. In the early part of December, General Howe sought to bring on a general engagement at Whitemarsh, a few miles out from Philadelphia. But Washington, though he had received some reinforcements, declined the challenge, and took his army into winter quarters at Valley Forge. This was a secluded and sheltered spot on the Schuylkill, about 20 miles from Philadelphia. The soldiers made themselves log huts from the surrounding forest, but they were destitute of proper food and clothing, and their sufferings through the winter were very great. The condition of the sick especially was pitiable. Meanwhile, the British were very comfortably established in Philadelphia, and passed their time in pleasurable ways.

1777. *December. News of Burgoyne's surrender reaches London and Paris. Great rejoicing in the latter city. Lord North prostrated, and the opposition to the Ministry greatly strengthened.*

1778. The Conway Cabal. The lull in military movements gave space for a greater play of the envyings and jealousies which in busier times had been kept in a measure beneath the surface. Some influential members of the Congress were more or less distrustful of Washington, complained of him for not displaying greater activity in the field, and by various things which were done, or not done, actually and unwarrantably interfered with his conduct of affairs. The insubordinate spirit which some of his lieutenants had previously manifested now deepened

1778. *January. Frederick of Prussia expresses a desire that the efforts of America for independence "may be crowned with complete success."*

into an organized intrigue to remove him from the chief command. He was unfavorably compared with Gates, to whom were commonly ascribed the great successes of the northern army. An officer named Conway was prominent in this movement, whence it is known as the Conway Cabal. Washington's feelings were sorely wounded by the studious affronts which were put upon him, but he bore them with great meekness, and steadily pursued what he conceived to be his duty with unfaltering purpose and a noble spirit. The intrigue proved abortive, and Washington's name was long since vindicated from the aspersions which were then ungenerously cast upon it.

1778. *February.* *The American commissioners in Paris conclude a treaty of friendship and commerce between the United States and France.*

1778. *March.* *The English Parliament adopts acts renouncing the exercise of the right to tax the American Colonies, and authorizing the sending of commissioners to treat for reconciliation. Friendly relations between France and England suspended.*

1778. *March.* **The Constitution of South Carolina** was permanently established by act of the Legislature.

1778–1779. Clark's Expedition. The movements of Spain and of the English, both with reference to the Mississippi Valley and to the great territory between it and the Ohio, together with the temper of the Indians, menaced the American settlements throughout that region. Under the authority of Virginia, and with some degree of secrecy, an expedition was organized early in 1778 by George Rogers Clark, for the purpose of confirming the settlers in possession, and extending the jurisdiction of the United States in that direction. The expedition was conducted with great courage and skill, and

1778. *March.* *The American commissioners, Franklin, Deane, and Lee, presented at the French court.*

in large measure accomplished its purpose. This backwoods campaign, which lasted more than a year, if not strictly a part of the Revolutionary War, was very intimately related to it both in the motives of patriotism by which it was prompted, and in the results with which it was followed.

1778. *April—June.* **Foreign Relations.** With the coming of spring, there seemed a brightening and softening of the political skies for the Americans. Early in May, the treaty which had been negotiated with France was ratified by the Congress. This treaty substantially pledged France to the support of the United States in their contest with Great Britain. At this same time, commissioners from England were on their way to America, to attempt an amicable adjustment of difficulties on the basis of the acts passed by Parliament in March. As early as April, the Congress, apprised of the action taken, resolved "to hold no conference or treaty with any commissioners on the part of Great Britain, unless they shall, as a preliminary thereto, either withdraw their fleets and armies, or in positive and express terms acknowledge the independence of the States." Early in June, the commissioners arrived in Philadelphia, and sought to open correspondence with the Congress and with individuals in the prosecution of their mission. The mission was a failure.

1778. *April.* *Great debate in the House of Lords over the motion of the Duke of Richmond to abandon the war, and recall the army and navy for home defence. The Earl of Chatham makes his last public appearance.*

1778. *June.* *Hostilities between England and France are begun by a naval encounter off the west coast of the latter.*

1778. *June* 28. **Battle of Monmouth.** The military operations of the summer opened with the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British, in pursuance of orders to

proceed to New York. Sir Henry Clinton had succeeded General Howe in command. Washington followed the retreating army in its march across New Jersey towards Sandy Hook. At Monmouth, he overtook it, and determined on giving battle. As had been the case so often before, he was again balked by one of his own generals, Lee, who failed at a critical juncture of affairs to render the service expected of him. The result was almost a defeat for the Americans, whose loss was upwards of 200. But the British lost twice that number, while the desertions from the latter during their march across the State numbered nearly a thousand more. For his conduct on this day, General Lee was court-martialed, and suspended from the service for a year. For a subsequent offence, he was dismissed altogether; and in 1782 he died in Philadelphia.

1778. *July* 3, 4. **The Massacre of Wyoming.** An expedition of Tories and Indians fell upon the unprotected settlement of Wyoming in a beautiful part of the valley of the Susquehannah, in Pennsylvania. Resistance was offered, but in vain. The settlers — men, women, and children — were mercilessly butchered, houses were burned, crops were destroyed, and the whole valley was rendered desolate. This was one of the most frightful tragedies in all American history.

1778. *July. Naval battle between the English and French fleets off Ushant.*

1778. The French Fleet. France followed up its alliance with the United States by sending over a war fleet of some 15 vessels, under the Count d'Estaing, to cooperate against the British. It arrived in the Delaware early in July, and, having established communications with the Congress, followed on after Admiral Howe. The fleet being unable to enter the harbor of New York, a combined movement by land and sea was undertaken upon Rhode

Island, which the British were now holding in force. Newport was selected as the point of attack, and the 10th of August as the time. From various causes, the expedition was a failure. At Quaker Hill, on the 29th, there was an engagement between the land forces, which ended as it began with a retreat of the Americans. Not long after this, Admiral Howe relinquished the command of the British squadron to Admiral Byron (the grandfather of the poet), and Count d'Estaing sailed away with his fleet to the West Indies.

1778. *December.* **Winter Quarters.** The American army now went into winter quarters in a series of camps extending from the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound, in a great sweep, to the Delaware River. West Point was included in the line. Washington had his headquarters at Middlebrook, N.J. The British remained in force at New York.

1778. *December. Hostilities progress between the English and the French in both the East and the West Indies.*

VII.

FROM THE CAMPAIGN OF 1779 TO THE TREASON OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.

JANUARY, 1779—SEPTEMBER, 1780.

1778. *December.* **The Invasion of Georgia.** What is here termed the Campaign of 1779 began in reality in the latter part of the December preceding, when the British forces entered on operations at the South with a movement upon Savannah, the capital of Georgia. An army of from two to three thousand men, under Lieutenant-Colonel

Campbell, was despatched from New York late in December. A landing was effected, and on the 29th an engagement ensued. A brave resistance was offered by a small body of Americans, commanded by General Robert Howe; but it was in vain. The town fell into the hands of the invaders, together with considerable quantities of military stores. The fall of Savannah was speedily followed by that of Sunbury, another military post, and then by that of Augusta; the entire State thereupon coming under British control. These successes of the British were followed by an unsuccessful movement against Charleston, S.C., though not until there had been a change of commanders on both sides; General Prevost succeeding Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, and General Benjamin Lincoln General Howe.

1779. *February—May. The west coast of Africa and the Channel Islands in turn the scene of conflict between England and France.*

1779. *May—July.* **Ravaging Expeditions at the North.** While with one hand the British thus secured a grasp upon the comparatively feeble southern section of the country, with the other they began to ravage districts at the North. One expedition, sent out from New York in May, fell upon Portsmouth and Norfolk, Va., and devastated the entire region, plundering and violating without scruple, and destroying a vast amount of valuable private and public property, including more than a hundred vessels. Another, in June, went up the Hudson, and wrested from the Americans the two military posts of Stony Point and Verplank's Point, both of great importance as commanding the lines of communication at that time between New England and the Middle States. In July, still another was sent out into Connecticut, and the towns of New Haven, East Haven, Fairfield, Green

1779. *June. Spain declares war against Great Britain.*

Farms, and Norwalk, were given up to pillage and destruction. Buildings of every description were burned, the inhabitants were plundered, and not a few of them were put to the sword.

1779. *July* 16. **The Recapture of Stony Point.** This achievement, one of the most brilliant of the war, was planned by Washington, and executed by General Anthony Wayne — otherwise known as "Mad Anthony" — at the head of about a thousand picked men. The position, a very strong one naturally, had been rendered doubly so by the British since they had gotten possession of it, and it was deemed well-nigh impregnable. Wayne took it at the point of the bayonet in a night assault, losing not more than a hundred of his men; while all of the British force of 600, not killed or wounded, were taken prisoners.* The position was afterward relinquished.

1779. Other Events of the Summer. The summer wore away without bringing decided and permanent advantage to either side. In August, Major Henry Lee of Virginia, better known as "Light-horse Harry," copied Wayne's exploit by a daring night attack on Paulus Hook, now Jersey City, taking 150 prisoners. General Sullivan occupied several months in an expedition against the Indians in the interior of the State of New York, engaging them on the 29th of August at Newtown, now Elmira, in what is known as the Battle of the Chemung. An unsuccessful attempt was made in July and August to dislodge a British force which had established itself at Castine at the mouth

1779. *August. The English coast menaced by the formidable combined fleets of France and Spain.*

* "The conduct of the Americans upon this occasion was highly meritorious, for they would have been fully justified in putting the garrison to the sword, not one man of which was put to death but in fair combat." — *Stedman, an English historian.*

of the Penobscot River, in Maine. Massachusetts fitted out the expedition, which was, however, poorly handled, and failed of its object.

1779. *September* 23. **John Paul Jones.** Of two events which distinguished this period, one was a naval battle in the North Sea, in which John Paul Jones acquired great fame. Jones was a Scotchman, who had entered the colonial naval service at the outbreak of the war. He had made several successful cruises, and was now in command of a squadron of several vessels. His own ship was the "Bon Homme Richard," an old Indiaman, which had been fitted out for war service at L'Orient, a port of Brittany. On the 23d of September, off Flamborough Head, a British fleet of merchantmen was descried under convoy of two men-of-war, the "Serapis" and the "Countess of Scarborough." Jones ordered a pursuit, and gave battle. A very hot action ensued, at close quarters. The "Serapis" was captured; and the "Richard," having been abandoned, went down. The "Countess of Scarborough" likewise surrendered, and Jones carried off his prizes in triumph.

1779. *At this juncture England's displeasure becomes excited toward Holland, for favors shown to France.*

1779. *October* 8. **The Attack upon Savannah.** The second of the two events represented as particularly distinguishing this period was the unsuccessful attempt of the Americans to retake Savannah. The Count d'Estaing joined with General Lincoln in the attack. Siege was laid to the town, and on the 8th of October an assault was ordered. After an hour's desperate fighting, the assailants were repulsed, and retired with a loss of several hundred men. Among the mortally wounded was the Count Pulaski, who fell while gallantly leading his men. Soon after this, D'Estaing returned with his fleet to France.

1779. *December.* **The Army in Winter Quarters.** Again the American army went into its winter camp in New Jersey, with headquarters at Morristown. The winter set in early, and proved one of great severity. The soldiers were exposed to renewed hardships and sufferings. Their pay was sadly in arrears. Such money as was in circulation was almost worthless. Supplies were irregular and insufficient. Meat was often wholly lacking. The medical department was without delicacies of any kind. No organized sanitary or Christian commission ministered to the wants of camp and hospital. Yet the patriotic people of New Jersey contributed generously of their substance toward the support of their defenders, and the women kept their needles busy supplying them with clothing and other comforts.

1779. The Finances. We may here notice the financial question, which from the outset had been one of the most serious with which the country had had to deal. Its difficulties spread themselves out over the whole period of the war, but were never graver than now. Very early in their history, the Colonies had issued paper money and made it legal tender. About 1750, such issue had been forbidden by Act of Parliament; but the money nevertheless remained in circulation, and was received at the respective treasuries. It was, however, considerably depreciated. At the time when England was beginning to push her oppressive policy the hardest (1767), sterling exchange in Massachusetts was worth about 133; in New York, 175; in Pennsylvania, 160; in Virginia, 125; and in North Carolina, 145. With the commencement of actual hostilities, relatively immense expenses were of course created. To a considerable extent, each Colony assumed the cost of equipping and maintaining its own troops.

The Congress had no power to impose taxes, but could only make "requisitions" on the States, which sometimes were honored and oftener not. For such moneys as the Congress had to raise, it was obliged to resort to other measures. The lottery was authorized, and efforts were made to obtain loans or grants from France and Spain and other European nations. These means were only partially successful. The Congress was early brought to the necessity of issuing paper money of its own in addition to the large amount already in circulation by the Colonies. The country became flooded with this currency, and its depreciation followed as a matter of course. This depreciation was helped forward by an extensive system of counterfeiting, which the British government authorized and encouraged. In March, 1778, when about $9,000,000 of paper money was in circulation under act of Congress, it took $1.75 to equal $1.00 in specie. At the beginning of 1779, the amount in circulation had increased to upwards of $100,000,000, and its value decreased to 12½ cents on the dollar. By the end of the year, the $100,000,000 had been increased to $200,000,000, and the rate fallen to 2½. Before the end of the war, the paper currency came to be worth nothing, and ceased to circulate altogether.*

1779. Plans for Peace. The pause in the war at the North during the winter of 1778–9, together with the attitude maintained by France and Spain, and the supposed

* "The Congress is finally bankrupt! Last Saturday, a large body of the inhabitants, with paper dollars in their hats by way of cockades, paraded the streets of Philadelphia, carrying colors flying, with a Dog Tarred; and, instead of the usual appendage and ornament of feathers, his back was covered with the Congress paper dollars. This example of disaffection, immediately under the eyes of the rulers of the revolted provinces, in solemn service at the State House assembled, was directly followed by the jailer, who refused accepting the bills in purchase of a glass of rum, and afterwards by the traders of the city, who shut up their shops, declining to sell any more goods but for gold or silver." — *Rivington's Gazette* (New York, Tory), May 12, 1781.

temper of Great Britain, encouraged the Congress to think that perhaps the end of hostilities might be at hand, and set it to deliberating as to the terms upon which peace might be had. The question was a complicated one, viewed in any aspect; and its difficulties were enhanced by the claims and expectations of the European powers. The Congress, of course, would take no plan into consideration, which did not have as its basis the entire independence of the United States. This point being settled, what should be the boundaries of the new nation? Spain was covetous of Florida, and was disposed to insist on the control of the valley of the Mississippi. Both Spain and France objected to the acquisition by the United States of the territories of Canada and Nova Scotia, and were at the same time desirous that the broad region beyond the Ohio River should be ceded to Great Britain. The coast fisheries, too, presented a perplexing problem. They might with some degree of justice be claimed by both the English and the Americans. The Congress, in the maintenance of its own views, was embarrassed by its wish to cultivate the goodwill of Spain, and still more by its actual alliance with France. After various conferences and discussions, extending through the greater part of the year, it was resolved to appoint ministers to negotiate treaties with Spain and England; and John Jay and John Adams were respectively chosen to act in concert with Franklin to that end. Only the most general conditions of peace, however, had been projected; and the peace itself proved more distant than had been supposed.

1780. *January. The English seize a Dutch fleet in the Channel, suspected of carrying goods*

1780. The Constitution of Massachusetts, the framing of which had been proposed in 1777, and duly effected in 1779, was approved by the people and went into effect.

contraband of war. Reparation refused.

1780. *Russia, Denmark, and Sweden unite in a declaration of "armed neutrality," in which other nations of Europe join, having for its object the protection of their commerce from British interference.*

1779–1783. *The siege of Gibraltar, England holding the fortress against Spain and France.*

1780. *May.* **The Capture of Charleston, S.C.** The British now began a new series of operations at the South. Just at the junction of the old year with the new, Sir Henry Clinton sailed from New York with several thousand men, and on reaching Georgia at once organized a movement against Charleston, S.C. Charleston was at this time a prosperous and wealthy town of about 15,000 inhabitants, occupying an exposed situation, and defended by General Lincoln's army of less than 2000 men. Clinton had 10,000 men, was reinforced in April by 3000 more, was efficiently supported by a fleet under Admiral Arbuthnot, and had the co-operation of such lieutenants as Cornwallis and Tarleton. After various preliminaries, Clinton laid regular siege to Charleston, and early in April had it completely invested. The batteries then opened fire upon the town, and a direct and bloody assault was only avoided by a capitulation, which was agreed to on the 12th of May. The garrison not only, but the townsmen also, were counted in as prisoners, and the property of the people generally was confiscated. The capture of Charleston was followed up by other energetic measures in different parts of the State, so that by June Clinton considered the province in subjection, and returned to New York with a portion of his army, leaving the remainder behind with Cornwallis in command.

1780. *June.* **An Expedition into New Jersey.** The news of the fall of Charleston, travelling northward, found Washington's army coming out of winter quarters

not 4000 strong; and encouraged Knyphausen, who had been left by Clinton in New York, to attempt an expedition into New Jersey. He penetrated to Connecticut Farms, where Mrs. Caldwell, the wife of the patriotic Presbyterian minister, was brutally shot by one of his men, and the church and other buildings were burned. A brisk skirmish between the invaders and some scattering American troops ensued at Springfield; where again there was an engagement of greater dimensions on the 23d of June, between a second expeditionary force of British, sent out by Clinton himself, and the Americans under Greene. Here the British seem to have had an opportunity which they neglected to make the most of.

1780. *July*. **Arrival of French Reinforcements.** A hurried visit of Lafayette to France during the months now immediately preceding, together with the favorable representations of D'Estaing, resulted in the sending to America of a second French fleet, conveying some 6000 troops, and commanded by Count Rochambeau. Great expectations were raised by its arrival, but almost simultaneously heavy reinforcements were received by Sir Henry Clinton, and nothing of importance followed.

1780. *August—September*. **The Treason of Benedict Arnold.** There now occurred an event which by reason of its dramatic features and affecting interest occupies a solitary place of painful prominence in the history of the war. General Arnold, who had served with gallantry at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, in Canada, and in other campaigns, had been court-martialed and reprimanded by the Commander-in-chief for misconduct while in command at Philadelphia in 1778–79; during which time he was also in treasonable correspondence with the enemy. In August, he was transferred at his own request to the command of West Point

and the surrounding posts; as it afterward appeared in pursuance of a secret plan between him and Sir Henry Clinton for a surrender of the position to the British. For this service, he was to receive the sum of £10,000 and a brigadier-general's commission in the King's army. In order to complete the negotiations, a personal interview was arranged between Arnold and Major André, Clinton's adjutant-general. This took place on the 21st and 22d of September, at a point on the west bank of the Hudson not far from Haverstraw. André, who had come up from New York by water, was obliged to return by land, first crossing the river and going down the east side. Just above Tarrytown, he was arrested by three volunteer pickets, who were guarding the way. Papers in Arnold's handwriting were found upon his person, containing particulars of the works at West Point and of the garrison. He was at once handed over to the American authorities. Arnold, hearing of his capture, escaped within the British lines. André was treated with great considerateness; but his trial was a necessity, his guilt was established by his own admissions, and his death was determined by the inexorable rules of war. He was hanged as a spy on the 2d of October.* Arnold received in a measure the reward of his treachery, but with it the contempt of his new associates and the execration of the country he had deserted.

* "There was something singularly interesting in the character of André. To an excellent understanding, well improved by education and travel, he united a peculiar elegance of mind and manners, and the advantages of a pleasing person. It is said that he possessed a pretty taste for the fine arts, and had himself attained some proficiency in poetry, music, and painting. His knowledge appeared without ostentation, and embellished by a diffidence that rarely accompanies so many talents and accomplishments His elocution was handsome, his address easy, polite, and insinuating. By his merit he had acquired the unlimited confidence of his general, and was making rapid progress in military rank and reputation." — *Hamilton.*

VIII.

THE DECISIVE CAMPAIGN.

1780–1781.

The Campaign of 1780—1781, which was to determine the issues of the war, was opened in the summer by Cornwallis, who had been left in South Carolina by Sir Henry Clinton in command of the British forces in the South. It was his plan, retaining South Carolina and Georgia in a strong grasp, to push northward through North Carolina into Virginia, conquering as he went, and renewing a connection with Clinton somewhere on the Chesapeake Bay. For the execution of this plan, he had an army of more than 6000 men; and depended also on much assistance from the Tories, who were numerous in this part of the country.

Partisan Warfare. The chief opposition with which Cornwallis had at first to contend was from irregular and rudely organized bands of patriots, generally mounted, who

Charleston and Vicinity.

hovered about his army, and fell upon its exposed portions at every opportunity. Among the leaders of these land-privateersmen were Sumter, Pickens, Marion; and the story of their exploits forms one of the most striking chapters in the history of the war. The name of "Marion's Men" is especially familiar, whose deeds have been celebrated even in song * Between the British and these roving horsemen there were endless encounters, from slight skirmishings up to such small battles as those at Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock, in July and August respectively, when Sumter won fresh distinction. Among those who were present at this latter fight was a lad of thirteen, by the name of Andrew Jackson, who about fifty years afterward became president of the United States.

1780. *August* 16. **The Battle of Camden, S.C.,** was the first important engagement of the campaign. To confront Cornwallis, Washington had despatched some months previous a small detachment of his northern army under De Kalb, and following this the Congress had appointed Gates to the independent command at the South. Early on the morning of the 16th, the two armies met at Sanders's Creek, a few miles to the north-west of Camden. The advantage was with the British from the outset; and, though the Americans fought with great gallantry, they

* "Our band is few, but true and tried;
Our leader swift and bold;
The British soldier trembles
When Marion's name is told.
Our fortress is the good greenwood,
Our tent the cypress-tree;
We know the forest round us,
As seamen know the sea;
We know its walls of thorny vines,
Its glades of reedy grass,
Its safe and silent islands
Within the dark morass."
Bryant.

suffered, as so often before, from poor generalship, and lost the day. The defeat was a disastrous one, and not its least mournful feature was the death, by wounds, of De Kalb, the second in command. For his conduct at this battle, General Gates was ordered by the Congress before a court of inquiry, and General Greene was appointed in his place.

1780. Severe Measures of the British. Cornwallis followed up the victory at Camden by measures of great severity toward the patriots, confiscating their estates, imprisoning all who refused to join his army, and hanging those who, once having fought on the King's side, had now joined the other side. Prisoners were impressed into the British navy. Personal property was given up to be plundered by the soldiers. Houses were burned, and helpless women and children driven from their homes. These horrors of assassination and massacre were authorized for the purpose of more quickly and thoroughly breaking the spirit of the people. The result, however, was quite the opposite; for though the Tories abounded, and the patriots found some of their bitterest foes among those of their own household, still the latter were nerved to yet more desperate resistance by the cruelties which were practised upon them.

1780. *October* 7. **The Battle of King's Mountain.** While thus endeavoring to tighten his grasp upon the subjugated provinces, Cornwallis took up his march northward. At King's Mountain, on the 7th of October, one of the divisions of his army, under Major Ferguson, was attacked by an unorganized body of volunteers, and badly defeated, losing many killed and wounded, and a very large number of prisoners. Ferguson himself was slain. For a really important victory, it was purchased at a

1780. *December. England declares war against Holland.*

comparatively small price, the Americans losing but about 100.

1781. *January* 17. **The Battle of Cowpens.** A still more important and inspiring victory was in store for the Americans. General Greene was now in command of the little army of two or three thousand men set to resist the advance of the British. A detachment of his force under General Morgan had been westward, to operate along the border between the Carolinas. Against this detachment, Cornwallis despatched about 1000 men under Colonel Tarleton, one of his most famous officers. Morgan took up a position at a place called "the Cowpens," and awaited an attack. His men were handled with skill, and fought with great coolness and intrepidity. The British were routed with heavy loss, there being more than 100 killed and 200 wounded, and about 600 taken prisoners, out of a total of 1100. The Americans lost less than 100. The engagement was not upon a large scale; but the triumph was a brilliant one, and it produced great elation.

1781. *March* 15. **The Battle of Guilford Court House.** The Battle of Cowpens was followed by a series of marchings and countermarchings through the central portions of North Carolina, in which Cornwallis had it for his object to catch up with Greene, and Greene had it for his to keep out of the way. These strategic movements, the story of which is full of interest, occupied several weeks. Finally, by the middle of March, Greene was emboldened to make a stand near Guilford Court House, and Cornwallis advanced to give him battle. Both armies fought with great gallantry, but neither gained a decided advantage. The Americans retreated from the field, but the British were too much exhausted to pursue; and the

losses of the latter were considerably the heavier. Cornwallis, too, found it prudent to retire in the direction of Wilmington; a step which was a virtual confession of failure. So, indeed, was his move interpreted, when the news of it reached Parliament in June.*

1781. *April* 28. **The Battle of Hobkirk's Hill.** From Wilmington, Cornwallis, intent on getting to the Chesapeake, presently cut across the eastern extremity of the State in that direction; while Greene, foregoing pursuit, turned his attention to South Carolina, where Lord Rawdon had been left in command of the British force of occupation. Marching thither with something less than 2000 men, he was encountered by Lord Rawdon with less than 1000 at Hobkirk's Hill, where, on the 28th of April, a spirited action took place. The advantage fell to the British, though it was not a marked one, and the losses were about even.

1781. *April—June. An active campaign between the English and French in the West Indies.*

1781. *May—August.* **The Repossession of South Carolina.** The British still held several posts throughout the State: among them, Orangeburg, Fort Mott, Fort Granby, and Ninety-Six. With great skill and vigor, General Greene entered upon the work of reducing these posts. He was generally successful. One after another surrendered to him in open fight, or had to be abandoned by reason of his threatening movements, until in the course of the summer the British had been pretty much driven out of possession.

* "There is the most conclusive evidence that the war is at once impracticable in its object and ruinous in its progress. . . . Had our army been vanquished, what course could they have taken? Certainly, they would have abandoned the field of action, and flown for refuge to the seaside; precisely the measures the victorious army was obliged to adopt." — *Speech of Fox in the House of Commons.*

1781. *August* 4. **The Execution of Hayne.** While these movements were in progress, an event occurred which produced deep feeling at the time throughout the country, and which further deserves notice as illustrating the spirit and methods with which the British prosecuted the war. This was the execution of Colonel Isaac Hayne. He had been captured at the fall of Charleston, and paroled on condition that he would not again serve against the British while they were in possession. He had subsequently taken a forced pledge of allegiance to British authority; but now, on the appearance of the American army, had joined it as an officer. Under these circumstances, he was taken prisoner, and without trial condemned to death. Against so summary a process, which was illegal from any point of view, both he and the citizens of Charleston protested, but without avail; and, by a decree which was made inexorable, he was hanged. This was only one of many similar cases which marked the British possession of the South, but circumstances gave it peculiar importance and publicity.

1781. *August.* *Great naval battle between the English and the Dutch on the Dogger Bank, in the North Sea.*

1781. *September* 8. **The Battle of Eutaw Springs.** This final battle in South Carolina, and the one which completed the overthrow of the British army in the South, was brought about by General Greene,* who, with a force of

* "Greene had been in command less than nine months, and in that short time the three southern States were recovered, excepting only Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah. His career had not been marked by victories, but he always gained the object for which he risked an engagement. He says of himself, that he would 'fight, get beaten, and fight again.' He succeeded in driving Cornwallis out of the southern States, and in breaking up every British post in South Carolina outside of Charleston; having had, like the commander-in-chief, to contend with every evil that could come from the defects in government, and from want of provisions, clothes, and pay for his troops. . . . Yet, while he saw

about 2000 men, attacked the British under Colonel Stuart, and after a hard fight compelled their retreat. The battle was a bloody one, the Americans losing upwards of 500, and the British a still larger number. The British now withdrew entirely from the interior of the State to Charleston and a few other points on the seaboard.

1781. *January—July.* **Movements at the North.** While General Greene was thus conducting the campaign at the South to a successful issue, events of importance were occurring at the North, and contributing to prepare the way for the determination of the contest. In January, Washington's army being encamped in New Jersey with headquarters at Morristown, an extensive and formidable revolt of Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops took place, occasioned by a not unreasonable discontent at the very insufficient maintenance provided.* In the same month,

clearly all the perils and evils against which he had to struggle, cheerful activity and fortitude never failed him. His care extended to every thing in the southern department. It is the peculiar character of his campaign that whatever was achieved was achieved by Americans alone, and by Americans of the South. In the opinion of his country, he gained for himself as a general in the American army the place next to Washington." — *Bancroft*, vol. x. pp. 495. 496.

* The following extracts from a letter of Colonel Alexander Scammell (a New Hampshire officer and a member of Washington's staff), written probably in 1781 to some representative of his own State, give a graphic picture of the destitution of the troops in the matter of clothing. It is not known that the letter has ever before been published.

. . . "The major part of the clothing which has been delivered our men has been of very inferior quality, and has been of but very little service to the men. It is not unusual for a soldier to wear out a pair of new shoes in 24 hours, and a pair of Overalls in a week, such as they draw out of the public store at present. I suppose there never was an army of equal numbers with our own that consumed one half the quantity of Clothing which is wasted, spoilt, worn out, and destroyed, as in and for ours. There has been a quantity of clothing, sufficient, it is said, for 50,000 suits of uniform, lying in France and the West Indies several years for our Army. By the time it is completely ruined by water and moths, I expect it will arrive in small parcels, so as to give one soldier a coat, another a pair of Breeches, a 3d a waistcoat, &c. &c. I have nearly given up the Idea of ever seeing our men in complete uniform. They now appear on parade like a parcel of merry Andrews. One half of the

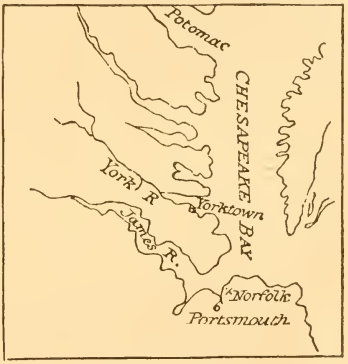
Sir Henry Clinton sent General Arnold, now a British officer, with a detachment of 1600 men to establish a foothold in Virginia. Arnold burned Richmond; and General Phillips, who presently arrived with reinforcements and succeeded to the command of the expedition, extended its depredations to the country around. For the defence of the State, Washington had detached Lafayette with a small force. These were the circumstances under which, about the middle of May, Cornwallis and his army made their appearance, marching northward from the Carolinas.

1781. The Summer Situation. This, then, was the situation during the summer of 1781. The armies of Lafayette and Cornwallis were skirmishing with each other in Virginia; the British plundering and ravaging on every hand, the Americans not strong enough to attack. French and English fleets were hovering about the Chesapeake and along the coast. Sir Henry Clinton still held New York, firmly persuaded that Washington intended an attack upon him there. It was Washington's intention, however, leaving Clinton under that persuasion, to move the strength of his army rapidly into Virginia for the purpose of falling upon Cornwallis. And, in the execution of this plan, most effective assistance was rendered by the

Expenditures now made for supplying the army with Clothing, if laid out for that which is good and of proper colour, would keep our Army decently clad, and enable them to make an appearance ten times more military. Notwithstanding the clothing that we get at present, our soldiers are nearly one-half of them unfit for duty for want of clothes. . . . At present we very frequently lose the services of our men at very critical junctures for want of shoes. It is impossible to conceive of worse than are now furnished us. A man may rip one-half of them to pieces with his hands. . . . I omitted mentioning that some of the men received a little money toward the deficiency of clothing in '77. The estimate was made when money was not more than two for one, if that, and [they] received the money in the latter part of '79 or beginning of '80, when it was 40 or 50 for one, so that it is not worth taking into computation The poor brave fellows dearly earnt every article. . . . I beg leave to repeat the want of Boots and Hats for the Officers, who at present are almost totally destitute of both — and leather Caps for the soldiers." . . .

French allies, commanded by Count Rochambeau and Count de Grasse.

1781. *August—October.* **The Siege of Yorktown.** Acting under instructions from Sir Henry Clinton, Cornwallis, early in August, proceeded to establish his army in a fortified position at Yorktown, on the peninsula formed by the York and James Rivers. It was thought that this spot was easy of defence against the Americans, besides securing the co-operation of the fleet, and affording opportunity for removal to New York, if necessity for such a movement should arise. The expected stronghold proved a trap. Cornwallis only shut himself up in it, and his escape became impossible. The French fleet, under De Grasse, blockaded him by sea; and Washington, having effected the combination of his forces, moved down upon him along the peninsula. By the last of September, the investment was complete, and early in October the siege formally began.



Yorktown and Vicinity.

1781. *October* 19. **The Surrender of Cornwallis.** The siege of Yorktown was of short duration. The Americans rapidly worked themselves up within storming distance of the British position. The first assault was

made upon the 14th of October, accomplishing its object. A sortie by the British on the 16th was unsuccessful. On the 17th, Cornwallis proposed to surrender. On the 18th, the capitulation was drawn up. On the 19th, it was carried into effect. More than 8000 prisoners laid down their arms, including nearly 2000 German hirelings. One of Washington's aids bore the news of the victory to the Congress at Philadelphia, and the most intense joy was everywhere the result. All could now see the beginning of the end. Even Sir Henry Clinton, arriving off the Chesapeake a few days after the surrender with 7000 men, realized the situation at once, and returned to New York. And the tidings, reaching England a month later, wrung from Lord North the despairing exclamation: "It is all over."

IX.

THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

1781–1783.

1781. Subsequent Military Movements. The siege of Yorktown was the last battle of the Revolution. Reinforcements were despatched to Greene in South Carolina; the French troops went into winter quarters in Virginia; De Grasse sailed away with his fleet to the West Indies; and Washington withdrew the body of his army to its old position. The British remained in possession of New York, Charleston, and Savannah. Between them and the Americans hostilities mainly ceased. For a time, however, the Indians kept up a warfare upon the border settlements, in which they were joined more or less

by the Tories; but these disturbances were put a stop to, when, in May, 1782, Sir Guy Carleton succeeded Clinton. The last life lost in the war is said to have been that of John Laurens of South Carolina, who was killed in a skirmish with a British marauding party on the Combahee River, on the 27th of August of that year.

1781. *December* 13. **Thanksgiving.** By appointment of the Congress, the 13th of December was observed as a day of thanksgiving "to Almighty God for the signal success of the American arms."

1782. *January.* **Robert Morris and the Finances.** Next to the negotiations of peace, the most serious concern of the country was the mending of its financial condition, now deplorable in the extreme. A year before this time, the Congress had created the office of Superintendent of the Finances, and appointed Robert Morris, a Philadelphia merchant, to fill it. Through his influence, the Congress, in December, 1781, incorporated the Bank of North America, which went into operation in January following, and proved not a little serviceable in relieving the national embarrassments. Morris used all his influence and authority to effect a return to specie payments, to fund the public debt, and to procure for the Congress the right to lay taxes; and he was instrumental in greatly relieving the necessities and satisfying the demands of the army.

1782. *The early months of this year witness important gains to France and Spain over England in the West Indies and elsewhere. The English fleet, however, defeats the French in a great battle off the Caribee Islands.*

1782. *February—March. The opponents of the war gain the ascendency in Parliament, and Lord North resigns. The Marquis of Rockingham succeeds to the premiership.*

1782. Peace. The negotiations for peace, which had been in progress through

1782. *March. Franklin, from Paris, opens cor-*

respondence with Shelburne, the new British Secretary of State, with reference to peace.

1782. *July. The Earl of Shelburne (Lord Lansdowne) becomes prime minister on the death of Rockingham.*

1782. *April. The States-general of Holland vote to receive John Adams as a representative of the United States.*

the summer, came to a successful issue in November. They were conducted in Paris. The relations of France and Spain to England and America somewhat complicated the settlement; and such details as boundaries, fisheries, and indemnities, presented difficulties which at times threatened to be insuperable. But wisdom and forbearance prevailed, and on the 30th of the month a formal treaty was assented to; Mr. Richard Oswald, Mr. Henry Strachey, and Mr. Fitz-Herbert acting in behalf of Great Britain, and Franklin, John Jay, John Adams, and Henry Laurens for the United States. Benjamin Vaughan also participated in the negotiations as the confidential agent of Lord Lansdowne. The chief negotiators, however, were Oswald and Franklin. The treaty was based on a full acknowledgment of the independence of the United States, and conceded the utmost that was asked by the latter with respect to boundaries and the fisheries. Its character was provisional, but in September of the following year it was fully confirmed.

1783. *April* 19. **Cessation of Hostilities.** On this day, the eighth anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the cessation of hostilities was formally proclaimed in the camp of the American army.

1783. *April. Lord North returns to office, in coalition with Fox.*

1783. The Constitution of New Hampshire, the foundations of which had been laid in 1776, was now perfected, and adopted by the people; and went into effect upon the 31st of October.

1783. *November.* **Disbandment and Evacuation.** On the 3d of November the American army was disbanded by orders of the Congress, and on the 23d the British evacuated New York. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS AT AN END.

X.

THE SEQUEL.

1783. *December.* **Washington's Retirement.** On the 4th of December, in New York, Washington took leave of his officers. It was an affecting scene. "I cannot come to each of you to take my leave," said he, "but shall be obliged if each of you will come and take my hand."* As he passed through Philadelphia, on his way to Annapolis, where the Congress was assembled, he rendered to the comptroller a detailed account of his expenses during the war. They amounted to $64,000, and every charge was minutely substantiated. This was in accordance with the terms upon which he had accepted his appointment as Commander-in-chief. To the Congress, on the 23d, he resigned his commission,† and then retired to

1783. *December.* *The younger Pitt becomes prime minister.*

* "The tear of manly sensibility was in every eye; not a word was spoken to interrupt the dignified silence and the tenderness of the scene. Leaving the room, he passed through the corps of light infantry, to the barge which was to convey him across the river. The whole company followed in mute and silent procession, with dejected countenances, testifying to feelings of delicious melancholy, which no language can describe. Having entered the barge, he turned to the company, and, waving his hat, bade them a silent adieu." — *Marshall.*

† *Washington to the Congress:* "The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest. . . . I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last act of my

his home at Mount Vernon, which he had visited but once, and then only for a few hours, during the eight years of war.

The Society of the Cincinnati. The officers of the army, before finally separating, organized themselves into "a society of friends," under the name of the "Society of the Cincinnati," for the perpetuation of the patriotic memories and sentiments in which they shared, "to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of their male posterity." The organization was effected at the quarters of Baron Steuben at New York, and the constitution was drawn up by General Knox. The society is still in existence.

Evils following the War. Many of the usual evils, and some that were unusual, followed in the train of the war. A debt which was comparatively enormous had accumulated, and there was no power to raise money for the discharge of it. Many of the people were plunged in poverty. There was a constant clashing of interests between the several States. And more and more it became apparent that the system of government under which the States were associated was too weak and inefficient to appropriate and maintain the advantages that had been won by the war.

official life by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping. Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and, bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life."

President Mifflin of the Congress to Washington: "Sir, the United States, in Congress assembled, receive with emotions too affecting for utterance the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success through a perilous and doubtful war. We join with you in commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God; and, for you, we address to him our earnest prayers, that a life so beloved may be fostered with all his care; that your days may be as happy as they have been illustrious; and that he will finally give you that reward which this world cannot give."

1787. *May—September.* **The Constitutional Convention.** In May, a convention of about 50 delegates from the several States assembled in Philadelphia, for the revision of the articles of confederation. Washington presided; and among the members were Franklin,* Roger Sherman, Alexander Hamilton, Robert Morris, James Madison, John Rutledge, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. The convention remained in session for four months, and the result was the perfecting of an entirely new constitution, which banded the States into the compact union under a central government which now exists. This constitution received in due course the approval of the several States, and in 1788 went into effect. Under it Washington was elected first President of the United States, and John Adams Vice-President. Upon the 30th of April, 1789, Washington entered on his first administration. AND AT THIS POINT THE HISTORY PROPER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEGINS.

* It was during the heated discussions of this convention that Franklin proposed the appointment of a chaplain to open its sessions with prayer, saying: "I have lived a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without his aid?"

APPENDIX.

THE IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTION.

A COMPLETE list of the battles of the Revolution, as commonly reckoned, would enumerate about 50. But many of these were mere skirmishes. Only the more important engagements are mentioned in the following table: —

DATE.	AMERICAN VICTORIES.	OF MIXED RESULT.	BRITISH VICTORIES.
1775, April 19.	. . . . .	Lexington and Concord.	
,, May 10.	Ticonderoga.		
,, June 17.	. . . . .	Bunker Hill.	
,, Dec. 31.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Quebec.
1776, June 28.	Sullivan's Island (S.C.).		
,, Aug. 27.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Long Island.
,, Oct. 11.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Lake Champlain (naval).
,, ,, 28.	. . . . .	. . . . .	White Plains.
,, Nov. 16.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Fort Washington.
,, Dec. 26.	Trenton.		
1777, Jan. 3.	Princeton.		
,, Aug. 16.	Bennington.		
,, Sept. 11.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Brandywine.
,, ,, 19.	. . . . .	Saratoga (first battle).	
,, Oct. 4.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Germantown.
,, ,, 7.	Saratoga (second battle and Burgoyne's surrender).		
,, ,, 22.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Forts Mercer and Mifflin.
1778, June 28.	. . . . .	Monmouth (N.J.)	
,, Aug. 29.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Quaker Hill (R.I.).
,, Dec. 29.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Savannah.

DATE.	AMERICAN VICTORIES.	OF MIXED RESULT.	BRITISH VICTORIES.
1779, July 16.	Stony Point.		
,, Oct. 9.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Savannah.
1780, May.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Siege of Charleston.
,, June 23.	Springfield(N.J.)		
,, Aug. 16.	. . . . .	. . . . .	Camden (S.C.).
,, Oct. 7.	King's Mountain (S.C.).		
1781, Jan. 17.	Cowpens (S.C.).		
,, Mar. 15.	. . . . .	Guilford Court House.	
,, April 28.	. . . . .	Hobkirk's Hill.	
,, Sept. 8.	Eutaw Springs (S.C.).		
,, Oct.	Siege of Yorktown.		

The following table gives the number of soldiers furnished by each State to the Continental Army during the war: —

Massachusetts	67,907	New Jersey	10,726
Connecticut	31,939	North Carolina	7,263
Virginia	26,678	South Carolina	6,417
Pennsylvania	25,678	Rhode Island	5,908
New York	17,781	Georgia	2,679
Maryland	13,912	Delaware	2,386
New Hampshire . . .	12,497	Total	231,791

The exact number of German troops which actually served in the English army during the Revolution is not known; but Dr. Friedrich Kapp, who has made a careful study of both German and English archives, gives the figures as follows: —

	NUMBER OF MEN FURNISHED.	NUMBER RETURNED HOME.
Brunswick	5,723	2,708
Hesse-Cassel	16,992	10,492
Hesse-Hanau	2,422	1,441
Waldeck	1,225	505
Anspach	1,644	1,183
Anhalt-Zerbst	1,160	984
	29,166	17,313
Total losses		11,853

Great Britain sent to America in all between 130,000 and 140,000 men, of whom some 22,000 were seamen.

The reader is referred to one or two of the more important works relating to the Revolution, as follows: —

General Histories.

Bancroft's History of the United States, vols. v.–x.
Hildreth's History of the United States, vol. iii.
Greene's Historical View of the American Revolution.
Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution.
Moore's Diary of the Revolution.
Stedman's History of the American War (English).

Special Histories.

Greene's The German Element in the War of Independence.
Sabine's History of the American Loyalists.
Frothingham's Rise of the Republic.
,, Siege of Boston.
Marshall's Life of Washington.
Irving's ,, ,, ,,

(There are also valuable biographies of all the prominent actors in affairs, both civil and military.)

Fiction.

Cooper's Lionel Lincoln.
,, Pilot.
,, The Spy.
Hawthorne's Septimius Felton.
Simms's novels, seven in number, illustrative of Revolutionary scene and incident in South Carolina.
Kennedy's Horseshoe Robinson.

Poetry.

Moore's Songs and Ballads of the Revolution.
Freneau's Poems Relating to the American Revolution.
Longfellow's Paul Revere's Ride.
Reed's Wagoner of the Alleghanies.
Campbell's Gertrude of Wyoming.

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